



## ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Agenda Item 20: Increasing the effectiveness of ICAO

#### MANAGEMENT OF ICAO DIFFERENCES

(Presented by Australia)

#### INFORMATION PAPER

##### SUMMARY

Australia has completed a review of its compliance with ICAO Annexes. This Working Paper summarises the processes that were used in coordinating the review, the issues that need to be addressed, and the AIP published differences.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Contracting States are obligated by Article 38 of the Convention to notify ICAO of any differences between their national regulations and practices and the International Standards contained in the Annexes to the Convention.

1.2 The ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audits have considered States' compliance with the select Annexes in light of the differences notified by the State. In numerous cases unnotified differences have been identified and reported as part of the audit program.

1.3 Australian, cogitative of its obligation has completed a full review of compliance with all Annexes. The identified differences have been forwarded to ICAO and also published in the Australian AIP.

#### 2. SITUATION

2.1 As part of normal practice, amendments to Annexes are considered by the relevant Australian Government aeronautical agencies within the Australian Government. A coordinated Australian response is formulated and forwarded to ICAO. In considering amendment proposals the concentration has been on the subject of the current amendment. On occasions, wider consideration of Annex Standards and previously notified differences has not occurred. The effect has been in some aspects a lack of comprehensive notification.

2.2 The ICAO Annexes contain standards & recommended practices (SARPs) that may go across several Australian Government agencies in support of the provision of aviation related services. In order to address compliance to the SARPs, the involvement of each of these Australian Government agencies is required.

2.3 Details of each SARP are entered into an ICAO differences database developed for this purpose. This database provides for ease of comment, input and management. Electronic versions<sup>1</sup> of the ICAO Annexes now make it easier to input the necessary SARP details into the database.

2.4 The Australian ICAO differences database contains the following fields:

- Annex Number
- Annex Volume
- Amendment Number
- Appendix Reference
- Annex Paragraph
- Paragraph Details
- Compliance Status
- Details of Difference
- Remarks
- CASR<sup>2</sup> or TSP<sup>3</sup> Reference
- Assessor
- Difference to be Notified

2.5 Compliance status, details of difference, remarks, and CASR or TSP references are then entered into the database by the relevant Australian Government agency, and the summarised report provided to Australia's mission in Montreal, for notification to the ICAO secretariat.

2.6 From time to time, ICAO issues Amendments to the Annexes, and States are required to review their compliance to the SARPs and any amendments thereof.

2.7 The amendments are issued as replacement pages to the Annexes. The ICAO "green" page amendment is a copy of the State letter notifying the adoption of the amendment, including the text of the amendment, showing deleted and new text. This facilitates an easier review of compliance by Australia when using the ICAO differences database.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

3.1 The continued provision of electronic documentation by ICAO and the reduction in reliance on paper copies should result in reduced costs to ICAO.

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<sup>1</sup> ICAO provides Acrobat Reader or DjVu versions of the Annexes on their website

<sup>2</sup> CASR – Civil Aviation Safety Regulation

<sup>3</sup> TSP – Airservices Australia's Technical Standard and Practice

4 **ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY**

3.1 The Assembly is invited to:

- a) Note that Australia has developed an ICAO differences database to better enable compliance with ICAO Annexes, to file the relevant differences with ICAO, and to publish these differences in the Australian Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP).
- b) Note that ICAO now provides electronic versions of the Annexes that enables text copying into databases to manage ICAO differences that facilitate easier management of compliance with ICAO Annexes.

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