



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 18: Passenger and crew health and the prevention of spread of communicable disease

**REINFORCE MANAGEMENT TO PREVENT
THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THROUGH AIR TRAVEL**

(Presented by China)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper introduces the Chinese Government's effective measures to prevent the communicable disease spread through air travel in the aspects of regulation, organizational structure, oversight and implementation, and suggests that ICAO promote the international cooperation on the prevention of communicable diseases spread through air travel.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) note the practices taken by the Chinese Government to prevent the spread of communicable diseases through air travel; and
- b) to support the implementation of ICAO measures on preventing the spread of communicable diseases through air travel.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic ObjectiveE.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not applicable.
<i>References:</i>	None

¹ Chinese and English versions provided by China.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In 2003, 29 countries and regions were stricken by severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), while avian influenza spread to more than 30 countries all over the world. In cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO), ICAO and IATA etc., the Chinese government took preventive effective measures to control the spread of SARS and avian influenza through air travel, protected the health and safety of aircrews and passengers, accumulating much experiences. With the promulgation and implementation of *IHR (2005, WHO)* and the issuance of *Measure on Strengthening the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Imported from Abroad and Spread Through Vehicle* by five Chinese government departments and agencies including the Ministry of Health, the Chinese Government adjusted all the emergency response practices on the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases to normal control and management practice, and strengthened the following aspects such as management of rules, regulations, organization structure, oversight and implementation etc., with a view to protect the health and safety of aircrews and passengers and prevented the risk of communicable diseases dissemination through air travel.

2. MEASURES TAKEN BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THROUGH AIR TRAVEL

2.1 In 2003, in order to control the spread of SARS, General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) established *China Civil Aviation SARS Prevention and Control Work Plan*. In 2005, in response to the epidemic situation of highly pathogenic avian influenza, CAAC put forward the requirement on the prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza. In July 2005, according to *IHR (2005, WHO)* and *Regulation on the Urgent Handling of Public Health Emergencies, response plan of National Public Health Emergencies (China)*, CAAC developed and promulgated *Civil Aviation Response Plan on Urgent Handling of Public Health Emergencies*. The plan formulates the structure of the organizations responsible for the public health emergencies, and their specific responsibilities. The plan requires all the regional administrations, safety supervision management offices, airlines, transportation aerodromes to develop implementation plan with the emphasis on the prescription of organization management, personnel, job responsibility, emergency practice, direction and coordination, communication, information reporting, equipment installment, training, regular drill according to their own characteristics and actual situation. Nowadays, China has established a three-level preparation system to prevent communicable diseases: State, CAAC, aerodromes (airlines).

2.2 CAAC also included the requirements of communicable diseases response and control measures into the aviation safety audit items of airlines, transportation aerodrome, which were conducted by CAAC.

2.3 The aviation medicine competent agencies of CAAC have developed the *Aviation Health Inspectors' Manual*, put the communicable disease emergency response measures and procedures into the continuous oversight and inspection program, and standardized the inspector's routine oversight towards the actual implementation of the communicable disease prevention practice in the civil aviation industry.

2.4 CAAC keeps in close touch with the Ministry of Health of China, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China and Chinese Center for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC), gaining the latest international and domestic epidemic information and the communicable disease prevention and control technique support, to work simultaneously and prevent the communicable disease spread through air travel. In 2005, CAAC established Civil Aviation Medical Center as the technical support organization to prevent and control communicable diseases.

2.5 To prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases through air travel, CAAC has set up different requirements for the airlines, transportation aerodrome and passengers:

- a) airlines, according to the Plan, they should be ready for communicable disease emergency control, and strengthen the training on communicable disease prevention and control provided to aircrew and other relevant staff, familiarizing themselves with the information reporting procedures and emergency practice;
- b) international aerodrome, 1) each passenger, when entering or exiting the border, is asked to fill in the *Health Quarantine Declaration Form* to declare his/her health situation; 2) install the rapid temperature detector in the exit-entry alley to screen passenger's temperature; 3) health quarantine staff and medical staff of airport shall patrol in the crowded place for medical inspection; 4) set a "temporal quarantine room for passenger with fever" for temporarily observing, curing and transporting suspect passenger; 5) establish the cooperation system with local CDC and medical institution for appropriate arrangement of transfer, diagnosis, epidemic diseases investigation and information feedback of patient with infection diseases or suspect patient; 6) set up communicable disease prevention and treatment information column in the crowded place to strengthen the publicity and education of correlated knowledge; 7) keep ventilating and sterilizing in the terminal; 8) implement epidemic situation reporting procedure; and 9) carry out the self-protection practice; and
- c) domestic aerodrome, they should implement the *Aerodrome Communicable Diseases Emergency plan*.

3. **RECOMMENDATION ON THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THROUGH AIR TRAVEL**

3.1 According to a number of practices on the prevention of SARS and avian influenza, CAAC recognizes that it is important to strengthen international cooperation and communication on the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases through air travel, and suggests that ICAO establish the relevant international cooperation platform.

3.2 It is suggested to study the possibility of adopting measures on preventing the communicable diseases through air travel into aviation safety management.