



## FACILITATION (FAL) DIVISION — TWELFTH SESSION

Cairo, Egypt, 22 March to 2 April 2004

### Agenda Item 6: International Health Regulations (IHRs)

#### NON-PESTICIDAL DISINSECTION OF AIRCRAFT

(Presented by the United States)

##### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The United States Government has been studying alternative approaches to pesticide-based disinsection of aircraft for preventing flying insects that can be a threat to public health, agriculture or the environment from entering aircraft cabins. There is concern that the current practice in some countries of requiring insecticides to disinsect aircraft can result in discomfort and raise questions about possible adverse health effects to aircraft crews and passengers.

1.2 Research has focused on a technique, which was developed by a United States Government laboratory, that consists of operating an air curtain at the entrance to the airplane doors to exclude mosquitoes and other flying insects from entering the airplane cabin.

1.2.1 The results of the laboratory-conducted tests, which are discussed in the information paper on air curtains, showed this technique to be superior to pesticide-based approaches for the following reasons:

- a) the technique is at least as efficacious as pesticide-based disinsection of aircraft;
- b) unlike pesticide-based disinsection, there is no possibility of misapplication of pesticides that may result in possible risk to humans or the environment; and
- c) there is no evidence of any adverse health effects from exposure to the moving air currents characteristic of air curtains.

1.3 For those Contracting States in which pesticide registration and application is controlled, this technique may also prove more feasible from a cost-benefit and risk-mitigation perspective.

1.4 Based on this research, contracting states should be urged to allow non-chemical approaches to disinsection.

2. **ACTION BY THE DIVISION**

2.1 The Division is invited to consider the proposal in the attachment for a new standard for inclusion in Annex 9.

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**APPENDIX**

**Proposed Standard for Chapter 2 of Annex 9**

Contracting States shall allow non-pesticidal approaches to aircraft disinsection that have been shown to be at least as efficacious as those methods and treatments for chemical disinsection that have been approved by the World Health Organization.

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