

USOAP Newsletter

Produced by Monitoring and Oversight, Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO

USOAP CMA Training Updates

The Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) is one of ICAO's keystone programmes helping to ensure the safe functioning of the world aviation industry for over 20 years. Through it, ICAO carries out audits and other monitoring activities to determine the safety oversight and accident/incident investigation capabilities of its Member States.

USOAP CMA training policies define and establish the criteria for the required qualifications of auditors, subject matter experts (SMEs) and State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation assessors, based on a combination of their education, work experience, technical background and training.

Monitoring and Oversight (MO) regards auditor training as pivotal for carrying out its mandate of activities. It has invested time and resources over the years to develop a systematic, effective and transparent process of forming new auditors.

Redeployment of the USOAP CMA Online Training Programme

The COVID-19 downtime was utilized by MO to transition the existing USOAP CMA online training programme from the support-discontinued Adobe Flash environment to vCampus, the new Learning Management System (LMS), which the ICAO Global Aviation Training (GAT) Section had adopted earlier. Compared to Adobe Flash, the new cloud-based LMS provides a robust audio/video environment and better learning experience for trainees, including improved accessibility and automated performance tracking and certification.

The USOAP CMA online course transition process took over a year to complete and was delivered by a joint MO-GAT project team in a step-wise fashion. First, the original course contents were retrieved and transcribed, so that GAT's development team could develop a new storyboard. Then, Standards and Procedures Officers (SPOs) from MO reviewed and updated the contents. With the updated course material at hand, GAT's development team started designing the course modules using state-of-the-art authoring tools and applications. When the new courses were laid out, it took another step of quality control, during which SPOs vetted the final course contents and exams.

The new USOAP CMA online programme was released in early 2022 and hosted on the vCampus LMS. In addition, the programme was integrated into the ICAO Aviation Training and Education Directory (ATED), along with the rest of the ICAO training courses. Finally, the newly released computer-based training (CBT) was made available for purchase at the ICAO online store and promoted by GAT in order to expedite the backlog of waiting candidates accumulated during the course downtime. (continued on page 3)

Inside this issue

USOAP CMA Training Updates	1,3
MO Conducts First Combined Focused Audit and SSPIA	2
Latest USOAP CMA EBs in 2022	3

MO Conducts First Combined SSPIA and Focused Audit Mission

ICAO successfully completed, in April 2022, the first combined USOAP mission to Singapore, which included a State Safety Programme Implementation Assessment (SSPIA) and a focused audit in the areas of personnel licensing (PEL) and airworthiness of aircraft (AIR). This combined mission is part of ICAO's constant efforts to explore ways to fulfil the USOAP mandate in a more efficient and effective manner.

As the latest addition to the repertoire of USOAP activities, the SSPIA aims to assess the maturity level of a State's implementation and maintenance of its State Safety Programme (SSP). It is deployed for States that have established and implemented an effective safety oversight system.

ICAO started to conduct SSPIAs under the USOAP continuous monitoring approach (CMA) framework in 2015, without additional resources allocated to the Programme. So far, only a limited number of States has received an SSPIA. To conduct SSPIAs in more Member States, the Programme will need more resources to fulfil the mandate.

Focused audit is one of the new types of audit activities recommended by the Group of Experts for a USOAP CMA Structured Review (GEUSR). It is a short-duration audit focusing on the assessment of a subset of USOAP Protocol Questions (PQs), with the aim of making the audit system more flexible in keeping more up-to-date the information about a State's safety oversight system and its Effective Implementation (EI) score. This new form of audits is expected to reduce the burden on the States due to the fewer number of PQs covered in the audits and the shorter duration of the on-site phase of the audits.

By combining an SSPIA and a focused audit of a State in one single mission, ICAO introduces a new model for USOAP missions, which further enhances programme efficiency, decreases the cost of missions, and reduces the workload of both the States and ICAO. Looking into the future, it is envisioned to provide States with a single report, covering both the effective implementation of the State safety oversight system and the maturity level of their SSP implementation and maintenance, through a single activity conducted by dually qualified USOAP auditors and SSPIA assessors, thus increasing the efficiency of the Programme and reducing the resources required at the same time.

Presently, ICAO is exploring possible ways of integrating SSPIAs into the "traditional" USOAP CMA activities, in line with the recommendations of both the Ad Hoc USOAP CMA Advisory Group (USOAP-AG) and the High-Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC). These include identifying and addressing the possible challenges to such integration. Happily, the experiences gained as well as the lessons learned from the combined mission in Singapore will serve as a good basis for a seamless integration of the two types of USOAP activities to satisfy the recommendations of both the USOAP-AG and the HLCC.

The current methodology of combined SSPIAs and focused audits will continue to be applied in 2022 and 2023. At the same time, ICAO, through MO, will develop a new methodology and mechanism to integrate SSPIAs into the "traditional" USOAP activities, including building a pool of "dual-purpose" auditors and assessors, to continue to enhance the efficiency of the Programme and strengthen the global acceptance of USOAP CMA results. It is planned to complete development of the new methodology and mechanism by the end of 2024, including beta testing, and to start deployment of the integrated activities in 2025, with the goal of reporting the achievement and success of the integrated methodology to the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2025.

Latest USOAP CMA Electronic Bulletins

In case you missed it, feel free to go to the CMA Library on the OLF back and review the latest Electronic Bulletins (EBs) issued during the first half of the year. This includes:

- EB 2022/2 — USOAP CMA Activity Plan (January 2022)
- EB 2022/11— Updates to the USOAP CMA OLF (Revamped USOAP State Profile and revised SAAQ)
- EB 2022/15 — Update of SSPIA Tool (Revision of “Guidance for Review” and addition of “Summary of Amendments”)
- EB 2022/26 — USOAP Activity Plan (June 2022)

USOAP CMA Training Updates (cont’d)

Development of a new Auditor Preparation Course

Based on feedback received from the pre-COVID on-the-job training (OJT) missions, a gap was identified between the theoretical CBT knowledge the auditor candidates received and the practical OJT requirements. In order to bridge the identified competency gap and improve the OJT success rates, MO has developed, with GAT’s assistance, a new instructor-led classroom course over the course of the last year.



The new course provides candidates with hands-on skills and case studies to practice the auditing techniques acquired in CBT under the supervision of an experienced instructor. Candidates who successfully complete the course are expected to perform better at their OJT before becoming fully qualified USOAP CMA team members.

Future USOAP CMA Training Development

A key training development priority of MO in the next triennium (2023-2025) will be to replicate the USOAP training model to develop a similar SSPIA training programme for assessors. The lessons learnt from the completed redeployment of USOAP CMA CBT and the identified synergies with SSPIA will be leveraged to deliver the new training programme in shorter period of time and at lower cost.

Other USOAP CMA training development projects include development of CBT-style tutorial for the USOAP CMA Online Framework (OLF), virtual workshops and an online auditor refresher course.

Monitoring and Oversight websites:

USOAP CMA Online Framework:
www.icao.int/usoap

ICAO public websites:
www.icao.int/safety/CMAForum
www.icao.int/safety/pages/usoap-results.aspx

USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach



Promoting global aviation safety

by continuously monitoring and updating
the safety oversight capabilities of all ICAO Member States.

