



International
Civil Aviation
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Международная
организация
гражданской
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Subject: Operational measures to ensure safe operations during the COVID-19 pandemic

Action required: a) Note the information; b) Provide information as requested in paragraphs 7 and 8

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to refer to the urgent need to reduce the risks of the spread of COVID-19 by air transport and to protect the health of air travellers and aviation personnel while maintaining essential aviation transport operations and ensuring an orderly return to normal operations in due course. In this respect, it has come to my attention that as a result of social distancing practices, closure of work spaces and other preventive measures, a number of States are taking various actions to enable service providers and personnel to maintain the validity of their certificates, licenses and other approvals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Service providers and aviation personnel are facing different challenges depending on where their State is with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are approximately 650 000 licensed personnel supporting commercial air transport worldwide. If a fraction of those personnel is affected by the pandemic measures, the potential for the disruption may be significant. In order to facilitate safe operations during these difficult times, I encourage States to be flexible in their approaches while at the same time adhering to their obligations under the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Doc 7300, Chicago Convention).

3. ICAO estimates that States may have COVID-19 related aviation contingency measures in place to some extent until 31 March 2021. To assist all States and relevant stakeholders, ICAO has launched a COVID-19 Operational Safety Measures public website (<https://www.icao.int/safety/COVID-19OPS>) that will provide measures to ensure safe operations during this period. All States are encouraged to make use of this website and inform ICAO of any latest developments in your State using the information highlighted on the website, which will be maintained by ICAO through 31 March 2021 unless circumstances otherwise dictate.

4. During the period of these contingency measures, particular attention should be given to the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) related to certificates and licenses. In this regard, States are reminded of their obligations under Article 38 of the Convention to notify ICAO of any differences that may arise. In order to facilitate the notification and dissemination of temporary differences during this period, a COVID-19 Contingency-Related Differences (CCRDs) sub-system

accessible through the Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) dashboard (www.icao.int/usoap) has been created and will also tentatively be maintained through 31 March 2021.

5. Particular attention should be given to Article 39 of the Convention which states that any aircraft or person that does not satisfy in full applicable Standards or conditions shall have endorsed on or attached to relevant certificate or license a complete enumeration of the details or particulars in respect of which the aircraft or person does not satisfy such requirements or conditions.

6. It should be further noted that Article 40 of the Convention provides that no aircraft or personnel having certificates or licenses so endorsed shall participate in international navigation, except with the permission of the State or States whose territory is entered.

7. With these considerations in mind, States are urged to inform ICAO of any temporary differences that may arise from your State's COVID-19 contingency measures, particularly those related to licensing and certification. States should also indicate, in general terms, whether your State will recognize or accept the validity of certificates and licenses affected by the special temporary measures of other States. The aforementioned information can be provided by the National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator (NCCMC) or any other authorized user:

- a) via the CCRD sub-system accessible through the EFODs dashboard; or
- b) by sending an off-line CCRD form available on the ICAO COVID-19 Operational Safety Measures public website by email to ops@icao.int.

Guidance on how to submit the information is provided on the ICAO COVID-19 Operational Safety Measures public website.

8. States are also encouraged to share with ICAO any information on the measures taken during this period providing links when possible. This information should be sent to ops@icao.int. All information, including CCRD reports, will be made available on the public website (<https://www.icao.int/safety/COVID-19OPS>).

9. Should you require specific guidance on any of the above matters, please contact your accredited ICAO Regional Office or submit an inquiry via email at ops@icao.int.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fang Liu
Secretary General