



WATER AERODROMES

Assembly Resolution A40-8

Requests the Council, within the current allotted budget, and as a matter of priority, to review existing SARPs related to aerodromes and to develop specific Standards and Recommended Practices in the appropriate Annexes to the Convention in order to address the design, certification, management, safety and reporting requirements for water aerodromes operations.”



ADOP.026.01	Global provisions for design, certification and operations of water aerodromes
Source	A40 – WP/94; Resolution A40-8; C-DEC 223/5
Problem Statement	Currently, there are no ICAO provisions related to water aerodromes. A number of States have noted an increase in water aerodrome operations and identified the need for standardized global specifications and procedures to certify water aerodromes open to the public. A lack of international specifications/guidance material related to water aerodromes has resulted in a reduced level of safety that is not consistent with that established for land aerodromes and heliports as set out in the existing specifications of Annex 14, Volumes I and II.
Specific Details	<p>Annex 14 – Volume I — Aerodromes currently defines “aerodromes” as “a defined area on land or water (including any buildings, installations and equipment) intended to be used either wholly or in part for the arrival, departure and surface movement of aircraft”. Consequently, it does not differentiate between land and water as a surface from which aircraft can operate. In addition, Annex 14, Volume I, Chapter 1, para .2.2 (Standard) states in part “... The specifications of Annex 14, Volume I, Chapter 3, shall apply only to land aerodromes.”</p> <p>Current edition of the ICAO Annexes relating to aerodromes are absent of any expressed specifications relating to the design, certification and operations of water aerodromes. Establishing international specifications related to water aerodromes is necessary to provide a level of safety that is consistent with that established for land aerodromes and heliports as set out in the existing specifications of Annex 14, Volumes I and II.</p> <p>It is important to note that operations of aeroplanes on water differ significantly from those conducted on land, and the specifications used for certification of land aerodromes may not be appropriate for water aerodromes. In addition to aviation legislation, a floatplane in contact with the water is subject to maritime regulations, including the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at sea. SARPs, procedures and related guidance material are therefore needed to facilitate water aerodrome operations and meet the objectives of floatplane operations. New specifications are necessary to support States, industry and operators in improving safety and to encourage strong civil aviation sectors that can promote and sustain social and economic progress. Consideration must be given to how water aerodromes operations will interact with harbour users, the use of existing infrastructure, facilities, and services. The impact of unplanned operations, such as emergency or contingency situations, should also be considered and taken into account.</p>
GANPWGASP Link	GASP Goal 1 (Achieve a continuous reduction of operational safety risks); Goal 6 (Ensure the appropriate infrastructure is available to support safe operations).
Expected Benefits	SARPs and related guidance material will ensure all States have access to internationally recognized specifications applicable to water aerodromes and infrastructure and will promote global harmonization in their implementation. Supporting safe and reliable air transport via water aerodrome operations provides significant socioeconomic benefits for member States. Moreover, this activity acts as a primary economic driver for many Small Island Developing States, through tourism for example. Strengthening civil aviation sectors supports the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. This work will assist member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and help ICAO deliver on its commitments through the No Country Left Behind initiative.
Reference Documents	Annex 14 — Aerodromes, Volume I Doc.9081, Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) – Aerodromes Doc.9774, Manual on Certification of Aerodromes Doc.9157 Aerodrome Design Manual Doc.9137 Airport Services Manual ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Guidance On Requirements For The Design And Operations Of Water Aerodromes For Seaplane Operations Doc.9735, Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Manual
Primary Expert Group	Aerodrome Design and Operations Panel (ADOP)
<i>For information purposes (to be completed by the Secretariat)</i>	
Proposed Metric	Number of water aerodrome operations in contracting States.

Interdependencies	External: International Maritime Organization (IMO) Internal: FLTOPS and AMO.	
Initial Impact Assessment	Impact on States	The cost impact to States on the introduction of global provisions on design, certification and operations of water aerodromes is likely to be moderate. There will be initial financial and human resource costs associated with developing and updating relevant regulations/policies to include these new requirements. The implementation of standard regulations will save significant resources for States in the development of their own regulations and guidance.
	Impact on Industry	The development of global provisions on water aerodromes is envisaged to support the growth of a branch of air transport industry with associated socio-economic benefits. Industry stakeholders are expected to benefit from harmonized rules amongst States, as the existence of an ICAO regulatory framework for the design, certification and operations of water aerodromes will support the continued development of such industry.
Secretariat Project Team	Secretariat Project Coordinator	ADOP Secretary
	Secretariat Project Team Members	FLTOPSP Secretary; IMP Secretary; ATMOPSP Secretary ;; TO/AN/ACI;
	Regional Office Focal Points	(to be assigned by Regional Directors)



WPE No.	Document Affected or Actions Needed	Description of Amendment proposal or Action	Supporting Expert Group	Status	Expected dates:		
					Delivery	Effective	Applicability
✓ 10415	Actions	Conduct applicability assessment, review national regulations (where available) and existing ICAO regional guidance and identify gaps. Coordination with IMO (external UN agency) may be required.	FLTOPSP ATMOPSP IMP	On-schedule	Q2 2023	-	Jun 2023
✓ 10419	Actions	Conduct applicability assessment, identify gaps and review the PANS-Aerodromes		On-schedule	Q2 2023	-	Jun 2023
✓ 10420	Actions	Conduct applicability assessment, identify gaps and review existing guidance in aerodrome design, airport services, ground handling and certification manuals		On-schedule	Q2 2023	-	Jun 2023
✓ 10421	New ICAO Circular (CIR ###)	Develop a circular containing broad and fundamental information on water aerodromes in support of upcoming amendments.		On-schedule	Q2 2023	-	Jul 2024
✓ 10423	New ICAO Document (Doc #####)	Develop new manual containing detailed guidance on design (including visual aids), certification and operations of water aerodromes		On-schedule	Q4 2027	-	Jul 2028
✓ 10417	Annex 15	Update Annex 15 in line with new provisions on water aerodromes, if required	IMP	On-schedule	Q1 2026	Jul 2028	Nov 2028
✓ 10416	Annex 14 - Vol I	Develop SARPs, as appropriate, on design (including visual aids), certification and operation of water aerodromes. Coordination with IMO (external UN agency) may be required.	FLTOPSP ATMOPSP IMP	On-schedule	Q1 2026	Jul 2028	Nov 2028
✓ 10418	PANS-AIM (Doc 10066)	Update PANS-AIM in line with new provisions on water aerodromes, if required	IMP	On-schedule	Q1 2028	Jul 2028	Nov 2028



✓	1042 2	PANS-AERODROMES (Doc 9981)	Develop procedures, as appropriate, on design (including visual aids), certification and operation of water aerodromes		On-schedule	Q1 2026	Jul 2028	Nov 2028
<i>For information purposes (to be completed by the Secretariat)</i>								
GLOBAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS								
Status:		Priority:		Initial Issue Date:		Date Approved by ANC:		Session / Meeting:
Approved		Medium		30 November 2022		30 November 2022		221-7
RATIONALE								
- AN-WP/9625								

	JC23 Altiports	JC24 Total Airport Management System (TAMs)	JC25 Vertiports	JC26 Water aerodromes
DPs presented	DP/25			DP/13
Leader	Patrick ZETTLER	Nicolas RATLEDGE	Arturo MADRIGAL	Carl GEOFFROY
Name of group	Altiports Task Force	TAM TF	Vertiport Design Sub Group (VDSG)	Water Aerodromes Working Group (WAWG)
Reports to	ADWG	AOWG	HDWG	ADOP
Volunteers	TBD	CANSO, IATA, France, Eurocontrol, IATA, ACI	Singapore, France, USA, Japan, UAE, UK, Spain, Italy, Brazil, IATA, ACI and other industry organizations.	Brazil, China, Denmark, Italy, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the UK, USA, ACI
Dates of meetings	TBD	TBD	25-26 May 2023	Every first Tuesday of the month





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