WORKING PAPER

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 19: Health and well-being of passengers and crews

NON-CHEMICAL APPROACHES TO AIRCRAFT DISINSECTION

(Presented by Canada, Czech Republic and United States)

SUMMARY

This working paper proposes an Assembly resolution to further efforts to consider non-chemical disinsection of aircraft.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 There is concern that aircraft disinsection using pesticides, as required by some countries, can result in discomfort and raise questions about possible adverse health effects to aircraft crews and passengers. Accordingly, the United States Government initiated research into alternative approaches for disinsecting aircraft.

1.2 The results of the test show that non-chemical disinsection is a promising alternative to the application of pesticides in aircraft cabins and flight decks.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 A recent study conducted by a United States laboratory found one approach, the use of a curtain of air through which persons boarding the aircraft pass, to be at least as efficacious as pesticide-based disinsection of aircraft. However, unlike pesticide-based disinsection, there is no possibility of misapplication of pesticides that may result in possible risk to humans or the environment, and there is no evidence of any adverse health effects from exposure to the moving air currents characteristic of air curtains.

2.2 The United States is now examining other non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection that could have particular value at the service doors and in purging the aircraft prior to the boarding of passengers and crew.

2.3 For those Contracting States in which pesticide registration and application is controlled, non-chemical techniques may also prove more feasible from a cost-benefit and risk-mitigation perspective.

2.4 At the ICAO Facilitation Division meeting held in March 2004, the Division recommended that ICAO Standard 2.24 be enlarged to allow for non-chemical disinsection.

3. ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

3.1 Based on the progress shown by research to date, the Assembly is invited to consider the resolution attached as Appendix A.

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APPENDIX A

AIRCRAFT DISINSECTION OF THE CABIN AND FLIGHT DECK OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER FLIGHTS

Whereas all nations benefit from the safe, secure, efficient and effective operation of the international civil aviation system;

Whereas ICAO Assemblies have demonstrated a concern for and a contribution to human welfare in the quality of life and in the environment in which human beings work and engage in other pursuits, including matters related to engine emissions, the ozone layer, aircraft noise, smoking and invasive alien species;

Whereas ICAO Assemblies have recognized a responsibility to achieve maximum compatibility between civil aviation operation and the quality of the human environment;

Whereas there is concern that the current practice by some States of requiring the use of insecticides to disinsect aircraft can result in discomfort and raises questions about possible adverse health effects to aircraft crews and passengers; and

Whereas recently conducted research has shown non-chemical methods of disinsection to be efficacious in preventing the entry into aircraft of mosquitoes and other flying insects.

The Assembly:

1) Requests the ICAO Council to encourage the exploration of non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection of the cabin and flight deck;

2) Requests the ICAO Council to cooperate with the World Health Organization in evaluating non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection;

3) Asks Contracting States to consider accepting aircraft disinsection using non-chemical methods in lieu of chemical disinsection; and

4) Requests the ICAO Council to report on the implementation of this Resolution in all its aspects to the next ordinary Session of the Assembly.

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