International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 18: Passenger and crew health and the prevention of spread of communicable disease

NON-CHEMICAL APPROACHES TO AIRCRAFT DISINSECTION

(Presented by the United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is concern that aircraft disinsection using pesticides, as required by some countries, can result in discomfort and possible adverse health effects to aircraft crews and passengers. Results of the United States Government research show that the non-chemical aircraft disinsection is a promising alternative to the use of pesticides. In 2004, the ICAO Facilitation Division recommended that ICAO Annex 9, Standard 2.24 be expanded to allow for non-chemical disinsection, and the Assembly adopted Resolution A35-13 calling for ICAO to assist the World Health Organization (WHO) in evaluating non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection.

Action: The Assembly is invited to adopt the resolution attached in the Appendix based on the progress shown by research to date.

Strategic Objectives:	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective A.
Financial implications:	
References:	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 There is concern that aircraft disinsection using pesticides, as required by some countries, can result in discomfort and possible adverse health effects to aircraft crews and passengers. Although the number of countries requiring disinsection has been declining, recent outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, e.g. the Zika virus in Guam, the Chikungunya virus in much of the Indian Ocean basin, and Rift Valley fever in the Horn of Africa, serve as a warning that we need to continue our vigilance in preventing the introduction of vector-borne diseases.

1.2 Accordingly, the United States Government initiated research into alternative approaches for disinsecting aircraft. The results of the research show that the non-chemical aircraft disinsection is a promising alternative to the use of pesticides for disinsection of the cabin and flight deck.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Studies conducted by a United States laboratory found the use of a curtain of air at the airplane passenger doors and netting at the service doors to be at least as efficacious as pesticide-based disinsection of aircraft. Moreover, with non-chemical 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 For those Contracting States in which pesticide registration and application is controlled, non-chemical disinsection may also prove to be more feasible from a cost-benefit and risk-mitigation perspective than pesticide-based disinsection.

2.3 In 2004, the ICAO Facilitation Division recommended that ICAO Annex 9, Standard 2.24 be expanded to allow for non-chemical disinsection, and the Assembly adopted Resolution A35-13 calling for ICAO to assist the WHO in evaluating non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection and to encourage the exploration of non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection of the cabin and flight deck.

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APPENDIX

Resolution 18/xx: Non-chemical disinsection of the aircraft cabin and flight deck for international flights

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

Whereas the 35th session of the Assembly declared that "the protection of the health of passengers and crews on international flights is an integral element of safe air travel and that conditions should be in place to ensure its preservation in a timely and cost-effective manner";

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 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 mosquitoes and other flying insects from entering an aircraft;

The Assembly:

1. *Requests* that the Council urge the World Health Organization to hold an informal consultation on the disinsection of the cabin and flight deck in which:

a) information on advances of non-chemical disinsection is reviewed;

b) the efficacy and safety of non-chemical disinsection are compared with the efficacy and safety of pesticide based disinsection; and

c) recommendations are made on acceptable disinsection practices;

2. *Requests* the Council to encourage the exploration of non-chemical approaches to aircraft disinsection of the cabin and flight deck; and

3. *Requests* the Council to report on the implementation of this Resolution at the next ordinary Session of the Assembly.

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