International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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(Information paper)

ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 38: Other issues to be considered by the Technical Commission

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS) COURSE FOR AVIATION INSPECTORS FROM THE AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

(Presented by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This Information paper describes the project to develop an online course on the Safety Management System (SMS) for aviation inspectors, using the Moodle educational environment, that States may use as an efficient educational reference for the training of safety oversight personnel.
This tool offers a good technological means to train aviation inspectors in virtual classrooms accessed remotely from their inspection sites or places of work, and to raise their awareness about the importance of distance learning and its safety benefits.

Strategic Objectives:	This working paper relates to the Safety Strategic Objective, in particular by supporting the use of information technologies in the roll-out of all components of safety management systems.
Financial implications:	Not applicable.
References:	Doc 9859, *Safety Management Manual*, 3rd Edition, 2013.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   Improving safety and smoothing the transition to the new safety framework require the effective implementation of both the Safety Management System (SMS) in industry and the State Safety Programme in States.

1.2   The effective implementation of SMS and SSP in turn depends largely on two fundamental factors: culture and training. When it comes to the training of personnel in charge of starting up the new safety processes, there are countless limitations including time, space and resources, which is why virtual, or e-learning constitutes a viable option for the effective mass transfer of knowledge.

(2 pages)

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[1] Spanish version provided by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

2.   **DISCUSSION**

2.1   Since the start of the SMS, problems have been encountered with respect to training due to high demand, restricted supply, a lack of facilitators, and issues with the State Safety Programme (SSP) Implementation Plan.

2.2   As a result of these problems and the desire to improve safety training, the pressing need was identified to develop distance, or e-learning initiatives in this field. E-learning is an innovative web-based training method that is poised to become the predominant training paradigm, having transformed education with individually and organizationally tailored courses and gained stature and recognition in the business and educational communities.

2.3   Consequently, in response to the rise of virtual learning environments and using available resources, the State of Venezuela has developed the online Safety Management System (SMS) Course for Aviation Inspectors. The course was designed by the *Instituto Universitario de Aeronáutica Civil (IUAC) "May. Avenida (AMB) Miguel Rodríguez"*.

2.4   The main objective of the course is to instruct and train aviation safety inspectors to evaluate, certify and supervise the implementation of key components of an SMS, in accordance with the relevant Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The course was created in the Moodle educational environment, a virtual web-based educational application that allows educators to create learning communities on line.

2.5   One of the advantages of the virtual environment from the point of view of the administrator is that the environment can be adapted locally to create tailored courses in a training centre that can be open to students anywhere on the planet, in any language, without the need for an administrator at the global level.

2.6   From the point of view of the user, the tool offers a good technological means to train aviation inspectors in virtual classrooms accessed remotely from their inspection sites or places of work, and to raise their awareness about the importance of distance learning and its safety benefits.

3.   **CONCLUSION**

3.1   Since its creation, distance learning has been a solid adult training solution. It has the benefit of allowing users to manage their own time and access the educational environment from any computer they choose that has an Internet connection.

3.2   In support of SMS/SSP implementation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is encouraging the use of virtual environments to develop distance, or e-learning mechanisms, which are being used to effectively deliver safety training in our country.

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