



International Civil Aviation Organization
Twelfth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group
– Pan America (RASG-PA) Executive Steering Committee
RASG-PA ESC/12

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 14 to 15 March 2012



Agenda Item 3.6: RASG-PA Projects/UPDATE

4.2: RASG-PA GSI-4 Project - Effective Incident and Accident Investigation

Central America Regional Accident Investigation Group Update

(Presented by COCESNA/ACSA)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents an update to the evolution project of the implementation of the Regional Accident Investigation Group by COCESNA/ACSA, and supported by RASG-PA as a project, whose objective will be the investigation and prevention of accidents and serious incidents in the Central American region accordingly with ICAO Annex 13 and ICAO SARPs.	
References:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICAO Annex 13• ICAO GASP• ISSG GASR• ICAO Doc 9946	
Strategic Objective(s)	<i>This working paper is related to Strategic Objective(s) A – Safety</i>

1. Introduction

1.1 ACSA (Central American Agency for Aviation Safety), in partnership with COCESNA Member States is working actively, in assisting Member States with Annex 13 material. ACSA has just assisted a Member State in preparation of the ICAO ICVM visit this past month and is scheduled to assist other Member State this year. These ICVM (ICAO Coordinated Validation Missions) visits are the follow up to the ICAO USOAP/CMA audits. The results should speak for itself.

1.2 ACSA, as a RSOO (Regional Safety Oversight Organization) not only provides assistance to Member States in the conduct of accident investigation, but covers the entire spectrum of Annex 13, thus understanding the needs of the entire region and providing the right type of corrective action plans necessary to implement ICAO SARPs.

1.3 In the 15th Meeting of COCESNA's Technical Committee, CT-15/2007-2, it was established that: *"COCESNA Member States shall designate an investigator for regional work in accident and incident investigation"*. This agreement made by the Member States of COCESNA, paves the road and is the foundation necessary to form and shape the regional group. Any work that goes towards the Operational Safety of a region or country is a plus towards that regions or countries ability to maintain a high level of safety.

1.4 Civil Aviation Authorities throughout Central America are still struggling with the lack of human and financial resources to conduct a complete and effective accident and incident investigation. Any agency, organization or regional group who wishes to assist ACSA in this struggle, will be more than welcome.

2. Discussion

2.1 Project Update is as follows:

1. Phase I (2010-2011) Documentation Phase: 90% accomplished
 - a. Development of MRAC-13 and related documents for approval in accordance with ICAO Annex 13 (Harmonized and Standardized regulations for the Central America Region)
 - b. Development of an Accident Investigator manual, procedure manual, standardized on a regional level.
2. Phase II (2011-2012) Implementation Phase: 80% accomplished
 - a. Evaluate the possibility of forming a GO TEAM on a regional level to provide support to the States in investigations of accidents and serious incidents.
 - b. Select a person from each member state to function as an IIC (Investigator in charge)
 - c. Evaluate the system database that will be deployed in the region for investigation of accidents and serious incidents and compatible with the SMS database.
3. Phase III (2012-2014) Prevention Phase:
 - a. Creation of an accident investigation laboratory to assist Member States with technical and accident reconstruction capabilities.

3. Summary

- 3.1 The existence of an independent body, responsible for the investigation of accident and incident within Central America ensures:
1. The independence of the process of investigation.
 2. An optimization and pooling of both human and financial resources.
 3. A standardized training program, assuring highly qualified personnel in the conduct of accident investigation.
 4. Compliance with ICAO Annex 13, SARPs and GASP GSI-4.

4. Suggested Action

4.1 RASG-PA is invited to:

- a) promote among Members the support in the implementation of the project; and
- b) support this safety initiative as a pilot programme for the establishment of the Regional Accident Investigation Group as promoted by ICAO.

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