International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office (NACC)
Twenty-fifth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR/DCA/25)
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 3–5 December 2013

Agenda Item 5: **Air Navigation Matters**
5.10 **Other air navigation matters**

STATUS OF AERODROME CERTIFICATION FOR THE E/CAR STATES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This working paper presents a summary of the status of implementation of aerodromes certification in the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR) area.

References:

- Annex 14, Volume I - *Aerodromes* - Aerodrome Design and Operations, Sixth Edition, July 2013
- Doc 9774-AN/969, *Manual on Certification of Aerodromes*, 1st Edition, 2001
- Doc 9859, AN/474, *Safety Management Manual (SMM),* 3rd Edition, 2013
- Surveys through State Letters from ICAO Regional Offices (EMX0407, 15 May 2013)

Strategic Objectives	*This working paper is related to Strategic Objectives:*
	A. Safety – Enhance Global Civil Aviation Safety
	C. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport

1. Introduction

1.1 The ICAO requirement for aerodrome certification has been effective since 27 November 2003. The establishment of a Safety Management System (SMS), as part of aerodrome certification requirements has been effective since 24 November 2005. Since then, several States have been working to ensure the establishment of a regulatory regime so that compliance with Annex 14, Vol. 1, specifications can be effectively enforced.

1.2 The most effective and transparent means of ensuring compliance with applicable specifications is the existence of a separate safety oversight entity and a well-defined safety oversight mechanism with support of appropriate legislation to be able to carry out the function of aerodrome safety regulation.

1.3   Once an aerodrome is granted a certificate by the State Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), it implies that at the time of certification the aerodrome meets the specifications regarding the facility and its operation, and that it has, according to the certifying authority, the capability to maintain these specifications for the period of validity of the certificate. The certification process also establishes the baseline for continued compliance monitoring.

2.   Discussion

2.1   The Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme - Comprehensive Systems Approach (USOAP-CSA) revealed that a high number of States (83% of 165 Member States audited) do not have an appropriate aerodrome regulatory framework in place. It does not ensure that an Aerodrome Manual that includes all pertinent information on the aerodrome site, facilities, services, equipment, operating procedures, organization and management, including SMS, is submitted by the applicant for approval/acceptance prior to granting the aerodrome certificate by the State´s CAA.

2.2   The provisions related to runway friction, runway end safety areas, pavement use and the review of Aerodrome Manuals show a high percentage of lack of compliance by the audited States. Other high "not satisfactory" percentages stem from deficiencies in the Surveillance Programme established by audited States, including the lack of expertise in highly specialized areas such as: rescue and firefighting, bird/wildlife hazard control, and aerodrome emergency planning.

2.3   For regulatory staff/inspector training, States should consider various specialist disciplines involved in the certification and surveillance of aerodromes and the training needed for those disciplines such as:

- Aerodrome operation
- Rescue and firefighting
- Wildlife management
- Aeronautical studies
- Risk assessments and enforcement
- Airfield signs, markings and lighting
- Obstacle evaluation
- Acceptance and oversight of SMS

2.4   The results of the surveys carried out by the NACC States/Territories are presented in the **Appendix** to this working paper.

3.   Suggested action

3.1   The Meeting is invited to:

a)   take note, review, comment on this working paper and update the information contained in the Appendix;

b)   consider the actions requested by ICAO regarding complete certification of a State´s respective international aerodromes and implementation of the SMS; and

c)   identify corresponding training requirements to ICAO.

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APPENDIX
IMPLEMENTATION OF AERODROME CERTIFICATION IN THE STATES/TERRITORIES OF THE E/CAR AREA

STATE/TERRITORY	No of AERODROMES (Doc. 8733, Vol. II, FASID, Table AOP 1)	RESPONSIBLE BODY	NUMBER OF AERODROMES			
			Certified	On-going (Scheduled date for certification)	PLANNED (Scheduled date to initiate the certification)	Remarks
Anguilla (UK)	1	ASSI/UK	1			
Antigua and Barbuda	1	ECCAA	0			
Barbados	1	CAD	1			Certificate issued on 4th July 2007
French Antilles	4	DRAC	4			
Grenada	2	ECCAA/CAD	0			
Montserrat (UK)	1	ASSI/UK	1			Conditional
Saba	1	Netherlands CAA	1			
Sint Eustatius	1	Netherlands CAA	1			
Sint Maarten	1	CASMD		1		Recertification process started on March 2013 and to be finished on June 2014
Puerto Rico (USA)	5	FAA	5			
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2	ECCAA	0			
Saint Lucia	2	ECCAA	0			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	5	ECCAA	0			
Trinidad and Tobago	2	TTCAA	2			
Virgin Islands (UK)	2	ASSI/UK	2			
Virgin Islands (USA)	2	FAA	2			
TOTAL	33		20	1		

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