



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

NACC/DCA/11 — WP/06
20/06/23

**Eleventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting
(NACC/DCA/11)**

Varadero, Cuba, 28-30 June 2023

**Agenda Item 4: NAM/CAR Regional Safety/Air Navigation Implementation
4.1 Safety Implementation Matters**

SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES IN THE NAM/CAR REGIONS

(Presented by Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This Working Paper is presented to show the progress and actions taken by the ICAO NACC Regional Office (RO) on safety implementation projects and initiatives: State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation and the improvement of the National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators (NCMCs) functions, the support provided to the NCMCs to promote the improvement of the safety oversight within the CAR States, among others.	
Action:	Presented in Section 3.
Strategic Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Objective 1 – Safety
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doc 10004 - Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)• Doc 9859 – Safety Management Manual• Doc 9734 – Safety Oversight Manual• Final Report of the Seventh Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation (NACC/DCA/07), Washington, D. C., United States, 19 - 21 September 2017• Safety Oversight Systems Improvement (SOS) Implementation Project• Regulatory Framework Comparison Project

1. Introduction

1.1 As part of the technical assistance activities performed by the ICAO NACC RO under the No Country Left Behind (NCLB) strategy to support and improve the effective implementation of the NAM/CAR States' Safety Oversight Systems (SOS), the ICAO NACC RO conducts several initiatives and projects in safety oversight matters, such as:

- a) State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation project, including SSP Points of Contact (PoCs) Working Groups (WP) and National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) implementation project
- b) National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators (NCCMC) Working Groups
- c) Regulatory framework comparison project
- d) Safety Oversight System (SOS) Improvement Project
- e) Project to Develop Guidance to Support Air Navigation Services (ANS) Safety Oversight

1.2 Each one of them supports specific ICAO requirements (Annex 19, GASP, Doc 9734, among others). With the almost complete recovery of air operations after the pandemic, the NACC RO has continued updating its projects.

2. ICAO NACC Safety Initiatives Progress

2.1 SSP implementation Project, including SSP PoCs, Working Groups and NASP Implementation Project

2.1.1 The NACC RO has established the SSP Working Groups (WG) and the first virtual meeting is planned for the first week of July 2023, as part of the agenda the meeting will present a data collection tool and questionnaire to gather specific information from the States.

2.1.2 The SSP implementation Project funded by the Regional Aviation Safety Group–Pan America (RASG-PA) is ongoing with the coordination of virtual evaluation to 4 States (prioritized in accordance with SSP Foundation of ICAO Integrated Safety Trend (Analysis) and Reporting System (iStars)). The SSP virtual evaluation will begin the second week of July 2023 and aims to provide assistance to the States and collect information for the development of a focused workshop, which will address the problems found during the evaluations. The workshop is planned to be held in the ICAO NACC Regional Office back-to-back with the Fourth State Safety Programme (SSP) Meeting for the NAM/CAR Regions (NAM/CAR/SSP/4) in November 2023.

2.1.3 The implementation of the Project counts on the in-kind collaboration of Subject Matter Experts provided by Canada, Dominican Republic and COCESNA, among others.

2.1.4 The National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) Implementation Project funded by the Champion States, United States CAP Project and the ICAO Project RLA/09/801 – Multi-Regional Civil Aviation Assistance Programme (MCAAP). The accomplished activities are:

- the provision of “the ICAO National Aviation Safety Plan” course (which is a self-paced virtual training course developed by ICAO Global Aviation Training (GAT) to at least 24 participants from 12 States of the CAR Region; and

- the deployment of the two-day workshop to assist the States with a technical review of the NASP preparation guide and the necessary methodologies for its development. The workshop had the participation of 12 States and was held at the ICAO NACC RO in Mexico City, Mexico in December 2022.

2.1.5 Next steps on the NASP Implementation Project for 2023:

- The first four States will receive an on-site technical assistance mission, one per State, to be carried out by one of the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and the Regional Officer, Safety Implementation of the ICAO NACC RO. The missions are scheduled for September 2023.
- Virtual assistance and follow-up sessions as required, to be carried out by the SMEs, subject to their availability.

2.2 **National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators Working Groups.**

2.2.1 The NACC RO has coordinated the accomplishment of the following activities:

- Terms of Reference (ToRs) update approval
- The First Teleconference of the NCMC/WG for the NAM/CAR Regions was held in May 2023 to present the rapporteurs of the English and Spanish WG and to submit to the participants the data collection tool (Microsoft forms), which will provide valuable information from the States' challenges, allowing the NCMC WG and the NACC RO to help in the solution of regional problems.
- The NACC RO to continue providing support on the implementation of the self-assessment to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico and ECCAA.

2.3 **Regulatory Framework Comparison Project**

2.3.1 The Project started with the evaluation using the various “base” regulations of the Approved Maintenance Organizations (AMOs) used within the region which are mainly: United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Model Civil Aviation Regulations (MCARS), South American Regulations, Latin American Regulations (LARS), Central American Regulations, ECAR/ European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Regulations to ease the formulation of bilateral/multilateral agreements among States. The Project will cover a range of regulations such as Maintenance Organizations (spearhead), foreign operator approval, commercial air operators, etc.

2.3.2 The project has been supported by SMEs from United States, EASA, International Air Transport Association (IATA), and Champion States. The working meetings had the participation of 80 to 90% of the States PoCs of our regions.

2.3.3 The objective of the Project is to provide the CAR Region States with a framework to assist them in recognizing and identifying where the States' regulations are the same, different but equivalent, or are fundamentally different. This will allow States to enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements on recognizing or accepting each other's regulations as if they were fully harmonized.

2.3.4 The comparison document for the Approved Maintenance Organizations (AMOs) final draft was submitted to the States in January 2023, the first official comparison document (Version 0) was uploaded to the NACC RO web page in March 2023, and a revised version (Version 1) has been uploaded in June 2023 which includes some editorial corrections and comments from Cuba.

2.3.5 The next phase of the project is the comparison of the "approval of foreign air operators" regulations. Up to this point, all the coordination with the Point of contact in the States have been accomplished and the meetings are scheduled to begin at the end of August 2023.

2.4 The Safety Oversight System (SOS) Improvement Project

2.4.1 The objective of the project is to improve the Effective Implementation (EI) of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and the safety oversight system in the CAR Region States prioritizing those who have not received a full Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) in the last 6 years or have had a negative International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) or EASA audit, by conducting on-site evaluations to the States of the region with a group of experts qualified through this project in coordination with the ICAO NACC RO Regional Officers, Safety Implementation.

2.4.2 In addition, the NACC RO is conducting a sampling (10% to 30%) of the self-assessment of the States that are currently conducting such a self-assessment, the results of the sampling are being used as part of the criteria for the election of the States to be furthered measured and to establish the status of the safety oversight system of authorities.

2.4.3 The following table shows the progress of the Project so far:

Phases	Description of Activities	Accomplishments	Dates
1	Establishment of Expert Group:	The group of experts has been assembled with personnel provided by the authorities of the CAR Region which fulfil the required profile of knowledge and experience.	2021/2022

Phases	Description of Activities	Accomplishments	Dates
2	<p>Training: The Project has provided training to the group of experts and to de inspectors of the authorities not meeting the criteria to become experts</p>	<p>From the candidates submitted by the CAR States that are part of the above-mentioned Group of Experts, 27 inspectors (Airworthiness of Aircraft (AIR), Aircraft Operations (OPS), and Personnel Licensing and Training (PEL)) have received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the online IASA audit methodology training with the in-kind support of the FAA; • EASA/Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) training, held in ASCA (Dominican Republic) with the support of Airbus; and • the IATA international auditor familiarization was held in the facilities of IATA in Miami, United States. <p>In addition, as part of this project, 42 inspectors from the region have been granted the following online Global Safety Initiative (GSI) courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAO Endorsed Government Safety Inspector -PEL (GSI-PEL); • ICAO Government Safety Inspector Operations - Air Cargo Certification Course (GSI-AC); and • ICAO Government Safety Inspector Operations - Air Operator Certification Course (GSI-OPS). 	2022
3	<p>Development of a Master Cross-Reference Document Evaluation Tool (CRDET) of the different types of audits</p>	<p>Based on the checklists established by IASA, USOAP, IATA, and EASA, a master document has been developed by the group of experts and will be used as a basis for the improvement of the audit techniques of the expert group and a better understanding of them by the States. The CRDETS that are already finalized and uploaded to the ICAO NACC web page are:</p> <p>Primary Aviation Legislation and Civil Aviation Regulations (LEG), Civil Aviation Organization (ORG) and Airworthiness of Aircraft (AIR).</p>	June 2023

2.4.4 The following activities of the Project are in progress:

Phases	Description of Activities	Comments	Expected dates
3	Development of a Master CRDET of the different types of audits	The development of the CRDETs of PEL and OPS is ongoing.	End of August 2023
4	Establishment of an Operational programme	The first draft of the programme has been developed and the States to be evaluated in 2023, have already been selected, and scheduled for November 2023, pending the development of the PEL and OPS CRDETs.	July 2023
5	Operational evaluation Missions according to the Work Programme (virtual)	The first draft of the programme has been developed and the States to be evaluated in 2023, have already been selected, and scheduled for November 2023, pending the development of the PEL and OPS CRDET.	November 2023

3. Suggested Actions

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) continue participating and supporting the safety implementation projects and initiatives of the NACC RO; and
- b) Directors General are invited to support the PoCs of their States that are participating and collaborating with the NACC RO.