



What is the Central American Aeronautical Safety Agency (ACSA)?

A brief
explanation

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- The Central American Aeronautical Safety Agency (ACSA) is a specialized, technical institution that is part of the Central American Corporation of Air Navigation Services (COCESNA). Its main function is to strengthen civil aviation safety in COCESNA member states by way of:
 - a. Safety Monitoring and Surveillance**
 - b. Service Provider Certification**
 - c. Standards, regulations, procedures, guidance material and manuals**
 - d. Training**
 - e. International and regional technical cooperation**

ACSA Regional Benefit

- The regionalized safety surveillance model, which is used to support all Member States, has been recognized by ICAO as a successful example of regional cooperation.
- **It has allowed:**
 - Better regulatory homogeneity between countries.
 - Efficient use of specialized technical resources.
 - Improved State scores overall in the ICAO USOAP CMA programme.
 - Technical cooperation agreements with EASA, FAA and ICAO



- ACSA operates as a Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO) Level 2, which means that we always act under the umbrella of the State.
ACSA has its own facilities located in Costa Rica and a permanent budget granted by COCESNA for high-level training and maintenance of its specialist staff.
COCESNA provides an annual budget to Member States to be used for development, training, consulting, and a variety of specified needs.

We are an advisory body for the CAAs and service providers that request support

COCESNA member states under the tutelage of ACSA.

- Belize
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- El Salvador
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Other States through cc agreements.



In summary, COCESNA/ACSA acts as a regional, technical organization in aviation safety and security, that seeks to guarantee safety and harmonize standards in the Central American region

ACSA's main functions

- Follow-up technical audits (ICAO/USOAP type) at the regional level. Assist States with providing the correct evidence for PQs in the ICAO USOAP-CMA protocols.
Review of maintenance programs for aircraft and operations manuals of airlines and aerodromes.
Conduct reactive evaluation of safety events (incidents and accidents).
Approve aeronautical courses and training centers.
Manage voluntary and confidential safety reporting systems.
Apply risk management criteria and data-based safety (SSP and SMS).
Develop software to monitor certification processes and surveillance carried out by States. Including licensing exams.

Technical assistance areas:

- Legislative framework (LEG)
Organization of the CAA (ORG)
Licenses (PEL)
Airworthiness (AIR)
- Operations (OPS)
Air Navigation Services (ANS)
Aerodromes (AGA)
Aviation Security (AVSEC)
Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)



USOAP-CMA Audit Assistance

- **Prior Preparation**

- Coordination with the Civil Aviation Authorities of Member States to prepare the documentation required by ICAO.
Revision and updating of cross-cutting procedures of the CAAs
Facilitate the review and updating of the necessary laws, regulations (CARs), procedures and manuals.
Offers support regarding the use of the ICAO OLF (Self Assessment, CC-EFOD, SAAQ, CAP)

- **During Audit**

Provides active support as a part of the national technical staff with ICAO auditors.
Occasionally, ACSA personnel represent the State during the audit via delegation of authority when deemed necessary.

USOAP-CMA Audit Assistance

- Post-audit follow-up
 - Assists with the formulation of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for each finding or deficiency identified.
 - Assists Member States with the implementation of improvements and monitoring safety indicators.
 - Participates in ICAO on-site monitoring or validation missions (ICVMs).
- Ongoing maintenance
 - Continuous monitoring of compliance with the Critical Elements. Provides ongoing technical support, training, and internal reviews to maintain a high level of compliance.

Aerodrome Certification

- ACSA plays a technical role in the aerodrome certification process in COCESNA member countries, although the final authority rests with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). ACSA acts as a regional specialized technical support agency, ensuring that the process complies with ICAO international standards.
 - ACSA assists States in properly guiding aerodrome operators in the development of their manuals and trains their personnel to review them.
 - ACSA supports Member State inspectors with on-site verifications of the process.
- When required by the State, ACSA prepares a draft of the aerodrome certificate.



Assisted and in-progress certification processes:

- 1- Juan Santamaría International Airport (Costa Rica)
- 2- Daniel Oduber Quirós International Airport (Costa Rica)
- 3- Tobias Bolaños International Airport (Costa Rica)
- 4- Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport (Honduras)
- 5- Juan Manuel Gálvez International Airport (Honduras)
- 6- Ilopango International Airport (El Salvador)
- 7- Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez International Airport (El Salvador)
- 8- Philip Goldson International Airport (Belize)
- 9- La Aurora International Airport (Guatemala)
- 10- Mundo Maya International Airport (Guatemala).

Total International Airports in the Region:

15



Guidance material for certification and surveillance

- ACSA has managed to establish a uniform certification process in all the States in the region with harmonized regulations.
- In collaboration with Member States we have developed an Aerodrome Inspector's Manual that addresses all the elements necessary for certification including comprehensive checklists for each of the phases of the process. The improvements made to this manual by each State are analyzed and shared for future amendments.
- Thanks to collaboration with the CAA, Guatemala, the checklists have been prepared to be included in the SIAR evo software. This is a tool designed and developed by COCESNA for the control of certification and surveillance processes for all disciplines.

Guidance material for certification and surveillance

- ACSA has also developed regional advisory circulars as acceptable means of compliance that are shared with States for adaptation to their regulatory frameworks and resource levels. In this regard, we have the entire critical element 5 covered.
- The structure of the Aerodrome Manuals has also been standardized, which facilitates their revision and the movement/exchange of specialists among member countries.

Training

- ACSA collaborates with another of our agencies: The Central American Institute of Aeronautical Training (ICCAE) in the development of curricula for basic, specialized and recurring courses for aerodrome inspectors.
- In addition, we provide on the job (OJT) training to applicants seeking to assume the post of aerodrome inspectors when requested by the State.



Questions?