



International
Civil Aviation
Organization

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Международная
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Ref.: EC 6/22-10/51

22 June 2010

Subject: National aviation plan: communicable diseases

Action required: Return completed questionnaire
by 1 October 2010

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to draw your attention to Standard 8.16 of Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, which requires Contracting States to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern.

A preparedness plan for aviation is required since air travel may increase the rate at which a disease spreads. Advance preparation should make it possible to delay such spread and provide more time for States to implement contingency measures to mitigate the effects of a pandemic. Background information on this matter is provided at Attachment A.

Attachment B consists of a questionnaire seeking information on the extent of implementation of Standard 8.16 of Annex 9 and other related provisions of Annexes 6 — *Operation of Aircraft*; 11 — *Air Traffic Services* and 14 — *Aerodromes*, Volume I — *Aerodrome Design and Operations* as well as the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) and any other current or planned action taken, if any, by your Government on preparedness planning.

It would be appreciated if the questionnaire is completed and returned, with any comments, before 1 October 2010.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Raymond Benjamin
Secretary General

Enclosures:

A — Background information

B — Questionnaire

Background Information

1. The worldwide transmission of communicable diseases through air transport and the consequent threat to public health has increased in recent years in line with the growth of passenger numbers. In 2004, the 35th Session of the Assembly requested the Council, in Resolution A35-12, *Protection of the health of passengers and crews and prevention of the spread of communicable disease through international travel*, to *inter alia*: a) review existing Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) related to passenger and crew health and develop new SARPs, where appropriate; b) establish suitable institutional arrangements to coordinate efforts by Contracting States and other members of the international civil aviation community aimed at protecting the health of passengers and crews; and c) as a matter of priority, develop SARPs in the appropriate Annexes to the Convention in order to address contingency plans to prevent the spread of communicable diseases through air transport.
 2. Subsequently, Annex 9 — *Facilitation* was amended (in 2007) to, *inter alia*, require States to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern (Standard 8.16). In 2009 subsequent amendments were made to Annexes 6 — *Operation of Aircraft*; 11 — *Air Traffic Services* and 14 — *Aerodromes*, Volume I — *Aerodrome Design and Operations* as well as the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) related to health measures that should be taken by Contracting States to manage public health emergencies of international concern and to prevent the spread of communicable diseases through air travel.
 3. Guidelines concerning implementation of the SARPs and PANS-ATM were developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Airports Council International (ACI), and have been posted on the ICAO public website.
 4. The ICAO Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project was set up to begin implementation of the SARPs, guidelines and relevant aspects of the WHO International Health Regulations (2005) through a series of workshops, seminars and airport evaluations held in cooperation with WHO. The CAPSCA project assists States in developing the preparedness of their aviation sectors by means of a collaborative effort that is shared by all stakeholders in order to minimise the spread of any serious communicable disease through air travel and to help reduce the detrimental health and financial impacts of public health emergencies. The CAPSCA project currently operates in three regions: Asia Pacific, Africa and the Americas, and is planned to commence in the Middle East in 2010.
 5. ICAO experience thus far in evaluating public health preparedness plans at international airports in many States has highlighted the need for further action to improve preparedness planning in the aviation sector. The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), avian influenza and, in 2009, the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemics highlighted the need for coordinated action by the global community to help prevent and manage the risk of spread, through air travel, of any communicable disease of serious public health concern. In this regard, strengthened communications and coordination between public health and aviation sectors is crucial, in order to develop and test plans for managing a future public health emergency.
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QUESTIONNAIRE

The aim of this questionnaire is to determine to what extent Contracting States have implemented the relevant Annex requirements, and how the aviation sector is preparing for public health emergencies, as required by the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization (WHO). This, in turn, will enable ICAO, *inter alia*, to better tailor preparedness planning workshops to address any gaps through its CAPSCA project, and to work with WHO and public health authorities to facilitate a collaborative approach to such planning. In completing the questionnaire, you may wish to include input from the health agency/department in your State, in addition to that from your Civil Aviation Authority.

NAME OF STATE: _____

Please circle the appropriate response.

1. My State has implemented Annex 9, Standard 8.16 that requires Contracting States to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an international outbreak of a communicable disease:**Yes/No/In part**

If the answer is "No", please skip to Q.1.3.

1.1 If the answer to Q.1 is "Yes" or "In part", please respond to the following questions:

1.1.1 Is the national preparedness plan for aviation integrated with the general national preparedness plan?**Yes/No**

1.1.2 Have **airport operators** been involved in the development of the national preparedness plan for aviation?**Yes/No**

1.1.3 Have **aircraft operators** been involved in the development of the national preparedness plan for aviation?**Yes/No**

1.1.4 Has the public health authority collaborated with the regulatory aviation authority in the development of the national preparedness plan for aviation?.....**Yes/No**

1.2 If the answer to Q.1 is "In part", please provide additional details below, or on a separate sheet:

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1.3 If the answer to Q.1 is “No”, please indicate the reason(s), if any, below, or on a separate sheet:

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1.4 If the answer to Q.1 is “No”, and if any technical or other assistance is required by your State to establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an international outbreak of a communicable disease, please provide details below, or on a separate sheet of paper:

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2. Aircraft operators carrying passengers to/from my State are utilising the updated (2007) Aircraft General Declaration (Annex 9, Appendix 1 refers), which contains a revised Declaration of Health.

Yes/No/Don’t know

3. Aircraft operators and/or the Public Health Authority in my State are utilising the Passenger Locator Card (Annex 9, Appendix 13 refers) for contact tracing of passengers who may have been in proximity to someone who may be suffering from a communicable disease.....

Yes/No/Don’t know

4. Aircraft operators carrying passengers to/from my State have been advised to implement the new (November 2009) procedure* for notifying air traffic control of a public health event on board an aircraft (such as a suspected case of communicable disease).....

Yes/No/Don’t know

5. Air traffic service* providers in my State have been advised to implement the new (November 2009) procedure* for informing the destination aerodrome of a public health event on board an aircraft (such as a suspected case of communicable disease) that has been advised to an air traffic controller by a pilot-in-command

Yes/No/Don’t know

* See *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444), Chapter 16, paragraph 16.6.

6. Air traffic service contingency plans been developed that include public health emergencies (Annex 11 – *Air Traffic Services*, Attachment C, paragraph 4 refers).....**Yes/No/Don't know**

7. Aerodrome emergency plans that include public health emergencies have been developed and tested (See Annex 14 — *Aerodromes*, Volume 1 — *Aerodrome Design and Operations*, Chapter 9, section 9.1 refers).....**Yes/No/Don't know**

8. Aircraft operators include a Universal Precaution Kit for managing public health events on board aircraft, as part of their on board medical supplies (Annex 6, paragraph 6.2 refers).....**Yes/ No/Don't know**

9. My State has joined or plans to join the Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project (where available ^{**}).....**Yes/No**

10. Details and signature of the person completing this form:

Name:

Official Title/Position:

Mailing address:

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Telephone number:

E-mail address:

Signature:

Please return completed form to: Fax: +1 514-954-6077 or E-mail: icaohq@icao.int

— END —

^{**} The CAPSCA project is currently available in the Africa, Americas and Asia Pacific regions.