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**INFLUENZA A(H1N1) – ENCOURAGING A HARMONIZED RESPONSE**

**1. Reporting procedure by pilots in command of a suspected case of communicable disease**

1.1 Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, paragraph 8.15 and, from November 2009, the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – *Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM), require the pilot-in-command (PIC) to promptly report a suspected case of communicable disease to air traffic control, for onward transmission to the destination aerodrome. This requirement was introduced to improve the reliability of notification of the public health authority at destination of an on-board suspected case of communicable disease. In March 2009, the ICAO Council approved the air traffic control procedure which becomes applicable in November. However, in light of current events, States are strongly encouraged to implement the procedure with immediate effect. The wording in the PANS-ATM is available on the ICAO website, at the end of the document ‘Guidelines for States concerning the management of communicable disease posing a serious public health risk’ at <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm>.

1.2 Directors General are kindly requested to ensure that flight and cabin crew are aware of the requirement for the PIC to promptly notify air traffic control of a suspected case of communicable disease, and that air traffic service units are aware of their role in forwarding the message to the destination.

**2. General Declaration – Health Part**

2.1 Attention of Directors General is drawn to the revised health part of the aircraft general declaration in ICAO Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, Appendix 1, which provides guidance to cabin crew regarding the identification of a suspect case of communicable disease, including Influenza A(H1N1). Aircraft operators are encouraged to use this material when advising cabin crew concerning the identification of a case of communicable disease. The Aircraft General Declaration is available on the ICAO website <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm> and the WHO website [http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/Annex9\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/Annex9_en.pdf).

**3. Passenger Locator Card**

3.1 To provide an appropriate method for rapidly collecting passenger information concerning those who may need to be contacted following an on-board event related to communicable disease such as Influenza A(H1N1), ICAO has assisted the WHO and other international organizations in developing a ‘Passenger Locator Card’ (PLC) and which is contained in ICAO Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, Appendix 13. The form is available electronically on the ICAO website <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm> and the WHO website [http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/locator\\_card/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/locator_card/en/).

3.2 It has come to ICAO's attention that States are not uniformly utilizing the PLC. To minimize logistical problems for airlines that carry the PLC into different States, it is helpful if States only request the internationally approved PLC from inbound aircraft. Directors General are encouraged to draw the attention of their public health authority to the WHO/ICAO approved PLC.

Issued under the authority of the Secretary General