



East African Community

Civil aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA)

**REGIONAL APPROACH FOR HARMONIZED
IMPLEMENTATION OF COVID-19 RELATED OPERATIONAL
AND COMPLIANCE MEASURES**

May 2020

1.0 BACKGROUND

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, has brought in a new normal in the way and means States and Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) must respond to the public health disasters causing disruptions in the aviation industry globally. The disruption calls for mitigation measures to ensure that aviation operations continue under new circumstances. The EAC-CASSOA acknowledges the challenges brought by COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity for reset and adaptation. The general understanding that the workspace environment has changed dramatically makes it necessary to refocus on the working culture and the way CASSOA interacts with the Partner States and the wider world.

The emergency of virtual workspace has prompted the Agency to formulate means and avenues for achieving its mandate whilst at the same time ensuring retention of its objective in providing support to Partner States as a Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO). The Agency has resolved to apply the principles of cooperation, collaboration and communications (3Cs) which are essential enablers to supporting the Partner States. The deployment of the 3Cs will enable CASSOA to optimize the intended deliverables. In resetting for the COVID-19 pandemic, CASSOA has adopted on the following major actions

- **Adapt** and reset to COVID-19 pandemic as guided by ICAO
- **Communicate** with the Partner States on COVID-19 related operational and mitigation measures
- **Cooperate** and **collaborate** with Partner States in resolving COVID-19 related operational challenges and impact
- **Harmonize** regional processes and procedures related to COVID-19 contingency measures

2.0 REGIONAL APPROACH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As a regional safety oversight organizations (RSOOs), CASSOA will take a vital role in supporting and harmonizing the actions being implemented by the Partner States for the purpose of managing safety risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, CASSOA is well placed to conduct overall regional assessment of impact on operations in the East African Region and coordinating the measures to allow return to normal operation during the post-COVID period. CASSOA has adopted an elaborate model to facilitate the Partner States as indicated in Figure 1 below:

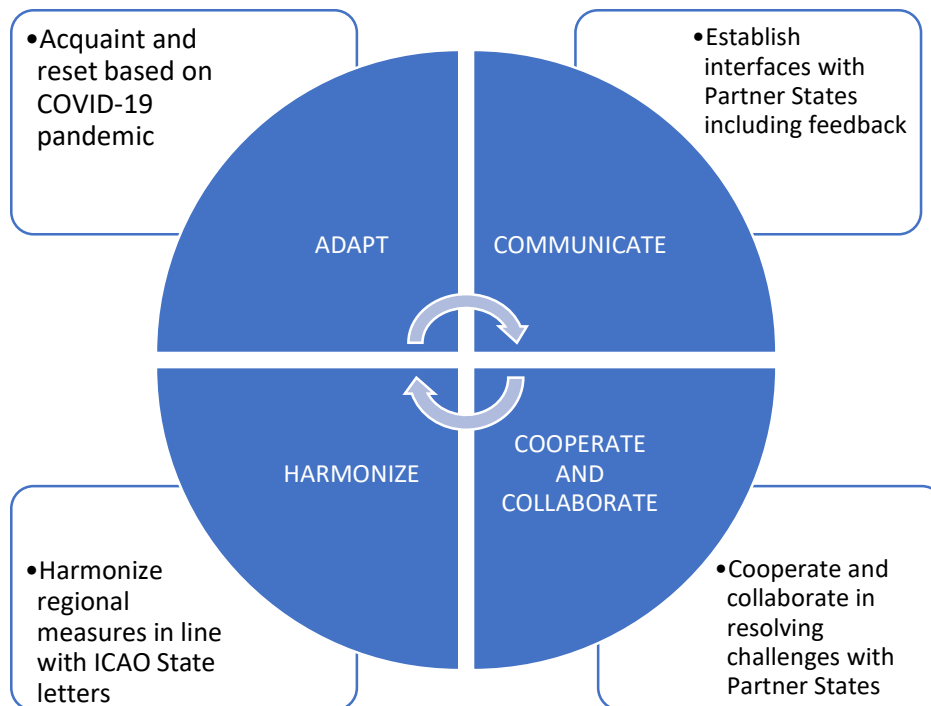


Fig 1: COVID-19 Reset Model for Partner State Support

The EAC CASSOA has identified appropriate interface and established communication with the Partner States to ensure good coordination with regard to the prevailing circumstances under the COVID-19 pandemic. For implementation purpose, the following key focal persons at State level have been identified and contacted regarding the way forward:

- ✓ Directors of Safety Regulation;
- ✓ National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators (NCMCs) and the;
- ✓ State Safety Programme Coordinators (SSP Experts)

3.0 PHILOSOPHY FOR HARMONIZED MEASURES

Based on the prevailing circumstance as well as ICAO guidance, CASSOA is implementing its harmonized regional actions in line with the following philosophy:

- a) Encouraging Flexible measures on the validity of certificates, Licenses, Authorizations, Approvals and Qualifications. It is also encouraged that there should be flexibility in authorizations regarding medical assessments and approvals without adversely impacting aviation safety and security and:

- b) Implementing safety management principles in managing operational risks under COVID-19 pandemic through use of qualitative information.

4.0 FRAMEWORK FOR HARMONIZED REGIONAL MEASURES

CASSOA is currently implementing its activities in line with the reset matrix model and taking into account the following:

4.1 Communication between CASSOA and Partner States

- a) Engage and establish rapport with DGCAs
- b) Engage and establish rapport with DSSRs;
- c) Engage NCMC as focal point for coordination;
- d) Maintain continuous communication and feedback
- e) Share and exchange information and experiences with NCMCS

4.2 Coordination and Cooperation for implementing of ICAO SARPS and Safety Risk Management processes related with the COVID-19

- a) Share ICAO State letters and documents to Partner States through CASSOA-net
- b) Solicit feedback and State specific measures;
- c) Coordinate regional based risk management process (Bow-tie)
- d) Encourage participation in Webinars relating COVID-19 Pandemic

4.3 Harmonization of operational Safety Mitigation Measures

- a) Customization of regional mitigation measures at State level
- b) States communication of regional measures with the industries/operators
- c) Filing of regional harmonized COVID-19 Contingency Related Differences (CCRD)

4.4 Implementation of Regional operation measures at Partner States Level

- a) Promulgation and oversight regional measures by CAAs
- b) Implement safety oversight audits/inspections
- c) Qualitative Safety Risk performance reviews on COVID-19 related differences
- d) Impact assessment/Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Figure 2 shows a process-oriented model framework for achieving harmonized implementation of contingency measures during COVID-19 pandemic.

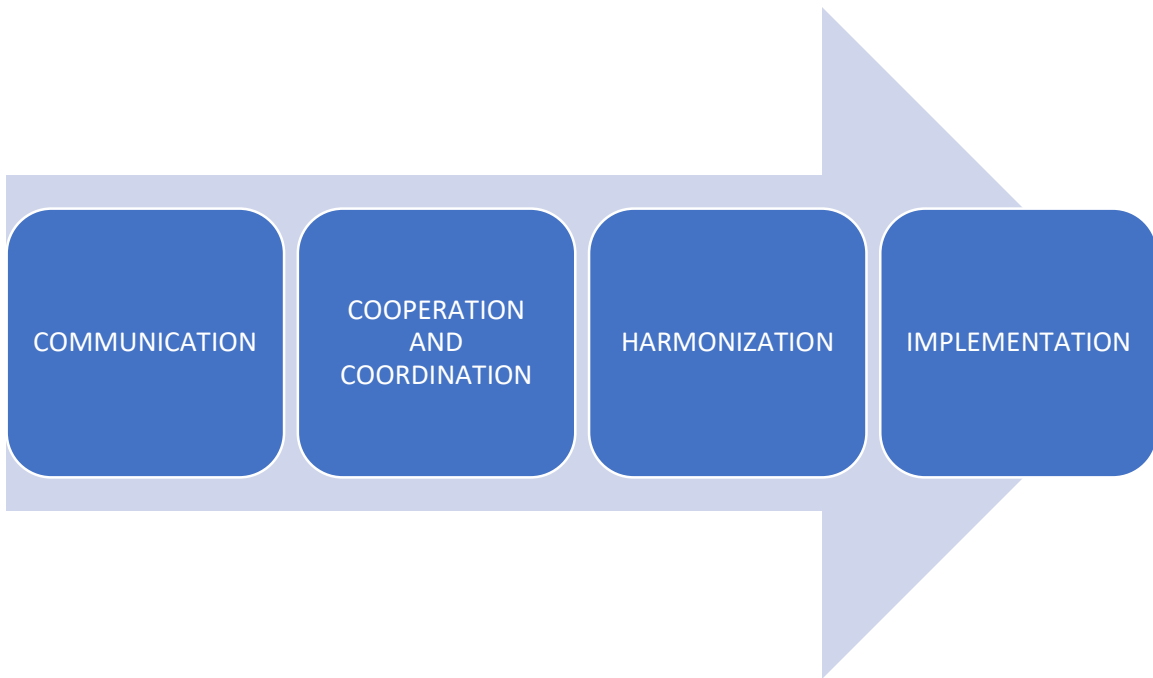


Fig 2: COVID-19 Harmonization Framework Model

The depicted framework provides guidance towards implementing mitigation measures for all safety and security related domains i.e. the Flight Safety Standards (FSS), Air Navigation Services (ANS), aerodromes (AGA) and security and facilitation (SECFAL). The proposed mitigation measures are indicated in **Appendix A** whilst the implementation plan of the framework is attached in the Gantt Chart in **Appendix B**

5.0 CONTINUOUS ADAPTABILITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CASSOA is fully aware that the COVID-19 pandemic is a dynamic situation and calls for continuous collaboration and communication with the Partner States, ICAO and other Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs). System-wide improvement or readjustment is vital in order for Partner States and the Agency to adapt and respond to challenges faced under the existing situation.

APPENDIX A:

AREAS FOR RISK BASED FLEXIBLE MITIGATION MEASURES

PEL

- Flexible measures on the validity of certificates, Licenses, Authorizations, Approvals and Qualifications

OPS

- Mitigation Measures for the expiration of certificates, approvals and authorizations

AIR

- Protective measures for AME, Technicians and Personnel licensing
- Flexible measures for C of A renewals, AMO approvals and other authorizations
- Repurposing aircraft passenger cabin for transport of cargo

ANS

- Protective measures for ANS Personnel and licensing
- Flexible measures for ANS Procedures/processes

AGA

- Flexible certification renewal processes
- Flexible use of aerodrome infrastructure

SSP/SMS

- Conducting Hazard Identification and Risk mitigation
- Use of Qualitative data to assess the safety risks

SECFAL

- Adhere to Annex 9 Standards 4.7 and 8.8
- Enforce screening measures to prevent spread of coronavirus

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT AGENCY
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR HARMONIZATION OF COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Qtr 3, 2020			
				May	Jun	Jul	Aug
1	COVID-19 HARMONIZED OPERATIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES	59 days	Sat 5/9/20				
2	COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATIVE MATTERS	38 days	Sat 5/9/20				
3	Transmit the ICAO State Letters through CASSOA-NET	1 day	Mon 5/11/20				
4	Formally Communicate with Partner States (CASSOA Letter)	1 day	Tue 5/12/20				
5	Solicit Actions by Partner States in response to COVID-19 Pandemic	7 days	Mon 5/11/20				
6	Establish Social Media (WhatsApp) EAC NCMCs Group	0 days	Mon 5/11/20				
7	Establish Group Email for the NCMCs and Technical Group	0 days	Mon 5/11/20				
8	Communicate continuously for State's feedback	34 days	Thu 5/14/20				
9	Access the ICAO COVID-19 Pandemic Website for Recency	0 days	Sat 5/9/20				
10	Upload Developed Harmonized Documents in CASSOA-NET	1 day	Mon 5/11/20				
11	REVIEW ICAO STATE LETTERS	36 days	Sat 5/9/20				
12	CASSOA Review of ICAO State Letter	3 days	Sat 5/9/20				
13	Formulate Actions for Harmonized Regional Mitigation Measures	14 days	Sat 5/30/20				
14	Update the Team on the Mitigation Measures	7 days	Wed 6/17/20				
15	HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT	23 days	Fri 5/15/20				
16	Conduct Hazard Identification	2 days	Fri 5/15/20				
17	Conduct Risk Assessment Using Bow Tie Model	1 day	Fri 5/15/20				
18	Identify Top Events	1 day	Fri 5/15/20				
19	Determine Control and Mitigative Measures	1 day	Mon 6/15/20				
20	ACTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERABLES	43 days	Sat 5/30/20				
21	Develop harmonized response to the ICAO States Letters	7 days	Sat 5/30/20				
22	File EAC Harmonized COVID-19 Contingency Related Differences (CCRD)	7 days	Sat 5/30/20				
23	Develop EAC Harmonized Guidance and Procedures	21 days	Tue 6/30/20				
24	Communicate on deliverables to the Management and Board	1 day	Tue 6/30/20				

Project: APPENDIX B - Project on COVID-19
Date: Fri 5/15/20



APPENDIX B