

## STATES RESPONSE TO ICAO STATE LETTER Ref.: EC 6/3 – 20/46

**DATED: 18 March 2020**

**Subject:** Adherence to relevant ICAO Annex 9 – *Facilitation* Standards; and Actions taken by Member States to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) by air transport and to protect the health of air travellers and the aviation personnel.

**Required action by States:** Member States are urged to: a) establish National Facilitation Committees in line with Annex 9 Standard 8.19; b) adhere to Annex 9 Standards 4.7 and 8.8 related to air cargo operations; c) take into account the guidance material in relation to screening measures; and d) provide ICAO with their actions taken to reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) by air transport aiming at protecting the health of air travellers and aviation personnel, no later than 30 April 2020.

STATE LETTER REQUIREMENT	ANNEX 9 STANDARDS/CONVENTION REFERENCE	CASSOA GUIDANCE	STATE'S STATUS
a) establish National Facilitation Committees in line with Annex 9 Standard 8.19	<b>Std. 8.19</b> Each Contracting State shall establish a National Air Transport Facilitation Committee, and Airport Facilitation Committees as required, or similar coordinating bodies, for the purpose of coordinating facilitation activities between departments, agencies, and other organizations of the State concerned with, or responsible for, various aspects of international civil aviation as well as with airport and aircraft operators.	✓ Necessary arrangements should be established to ensure appropriate cross-representation between facilitation and security committees at the national and airport levels to ensure that the aims of facilitation and security programmes within the State are compatible and effectively implemented without any unnecessary impediment to the other. ✓ The Committees (national/airport levels)	

		<p>should conduct their business to address various issues arising as a result of Covid-19 pandemic eg. Establish, implement measures and guidelines at the airport to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) by air transport and to protect the health of air travellers and the aviation personnel.</p>	
<p>b) adhere to Annex 9 Standards 4.7 and 8.8 related to air cargo operations;</p>	<p><b>Std. 4.7</b> Where practicable, in order to improve efficiency, modern screening or examination techniques shall be used to facilitate the physical examination of goods to be imported or exported.</p>	<p>✓As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic deployment of screening staff is highly affected considering the social distancing requirement and avoiding crowding in the working environment/places.</p> <p>✓However, movement of goods globally continues and the demand has become even more to address the evolving needs due to the global pandemic. In light of the above, States need to indicate how effective is the screening of goods or physical examination of goods to be imported/exported is carried out in the present environment.</p>	

		✓What methods of screening are being implemented?	
	<p><b>Std. 8.8</b> Contracting States shall facilitate the entry into, departure from and transit through their territories of aircraft engaged in relief flights performed by or on behalf of international organizations recognized by the UN or by or on behalf of States themselves and shall take all possible measures to ensure their safe operation. Such relief flights are those undertaken in response to natural and man-made disasters which seriously endanger human health or the environment, as well as similar emergency situations where UN assistance is required. Such flights shall be commenced as quickly as possible after obtaining agreement with the recipient State.</p>	<p>✓States have to indicate if there has been relief flight operations in their respective territories.</p> <p>✓What measures were undertaken to ensure their safe operations.</p>	
c) take into account the guidance material contained in Appendix 12, page 12-2 to Annex 9, notably the ones related to screening measures to be	<p><b>Article 14 – Prevention of spread of disease</b> Each contracting State agrees to take effective measures to prevent the spread by means of air navigation of cholera, typhus (epidemic), smallpox, yellow fever, plague, and such other communicable diseases</p>	<p>✓ Establish, review and amend as necessary the national policies regarding prevention of the spread of contagious diseases by air, for example, aircraft disinsection, disinfection, public health-related quarantine programmes,</p>	

<p>applied in a health emergency and the additional information found in Chapters 4 and 8 of ICAO Doc 9957, <i>The Facilitation Manual</i> and Doc 10042, <i>Model National Air Transport Facilitation Programme</i></p>	<p>as the contracting States shall from time to time decide to designate, ...</p>	<p>and screening measures to be applied in a health emergency.</p> <p>✓ Establish, review and amend as necessary the national regulations which implement the State's customs, immigration and quarantine laws pertaining to international movements by air.</p>	
<p>d) provide ICAO with their actions taken to reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) by air transport aiming at protecting the health of air travellers and aviation personnel</p>	<p><b>Article 14 (Chicago Convention)</b></p> <p><i>Prevention of spread of disease</i> Each contracting State agrees to take effective measures to prevent the spread by means of air navigation of cholera, typhus (epidemic), smallpox, yellow fever, plague, and such other communicable diseases as the contracting States shall from time to time decide to designate, ...</p> <p><b>Annex 9-Std 8.16</b></p> <p>A Contracting State shall establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public</p>	<p>Such actions may include but not limited to the following;</p> <p>✓ Establish, review and amend as necessary the national policies regarding prevention of the spread of contagious diseases by air, for example, aircraft disinsection, disinfection, public health-related quarantine programmes, and screening measures to be applied in a health emergency;</p> <p>✓ Suspension of all passenger flights and issuance of NOTAM as appropriate;</p> <p>✓ Mandatory quarantine of returning residents/passengers;</p>	

	health emergency of international concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Entry screening for air travellers;</li> <li>✓ Authorization of cargo operations and crew required to stay only in designated hotels;</li> <li>✓ Awareness programmes to passengers and staff on measures to protect them against the spread of Covid-19;</li> <li>✓ Provision of protective gears i.e gloves, masks etc.</li> <li>✓ Availing sanitization and hand washing facilities at airports etc.</li> </ul>	
<b>THE END</b>			