Security: Standards Setting

A critical dimension of ICAO’s work is strengthening the global policy and guidance framework for aviation security, taking into account, inter alia, changes in the threat and risk context.

Provisions for the security of international civil aviation were first introduced in 1974 as Annex 17 – Security to the Chicago Convention, and since then have been improved and updated 13 times.

The latest revision to the document, known as Amendment 13 to Annex 17 became applicable on 15 July 2013. It includes new and revised provisions necessary to close vulnerabilities in the global aviation security framework, such as in the area of air cargo security.

This recent Amendment also addresses the threat posed by insiders, and includes a revised Standard for the screening of persons other than passengers.

Annex 17—Security

The need for a manual to assist States in implementing aviation security measures was recognized by the 17th Session of the ICAO Assembly in 1970, which led to the publication of the Security Manual for Safeguarding International Civil Aviation Against Acts of Unlawful Interference (Doc 8973 – Restricted) in 1971. The Manual, which has since been retitled Aviation Security Manual, is currently in its Eighth Edition, and is considered the primary guidance material on achieving the security objectives of the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of Annex 17.

In addressing the evolving threat to civil aviation, ICAO relies on the advice of experts who sit on the Aviation Security (AVSEC) Panel. Established in 1986, the Panel is currently comprised of 27 members nominated by States, as well as five observers from industry. Together with the ICAO Secretariat, the Panel makes recommendations to the ICAO Council on security policy and responses to emerging threats as well as strategies aimed at preventing future acts of unlawful interference.

The Panel has met 24 times since its formation, most recently in April 2013.

Since the 37th Session of the Assembly in 2010, ICAO has enhanced its Standard-setting and rule-making process by promoting further risk-based and outcomes-focused security measures as the basis for policy-development in aviation security.

Continued
Leveraging Data and Managing Risk

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that security defences remain at all times appropriate and proportionate to the risk, in 2012 ICAO published the First Edition of the ICAO global Risk Context Statement (RCS).

The document includes a thorough analysis of the threats to civil aviation, and provides Member States with a robust methodology for further developing their national risk assessments. The RCS reinforces the importance of a risk-based approach while ensuring a coherent, effective and timely response to all security-related threats and other security emergencies.


For more information on ICAO’s Security & Facilitation Programme please visit: www.icao.int/security

Or contact ICAO Security & Facilitation via: sfp@icao.int