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Manual on Certification of Aerodromes

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Teléfono: +34 (91) 321-3148; Facsimile: +34 (91) 321-3157; Correo electrónico: sssc.ventasaoi@aena.es

Thailand. ICAO Regional Director, Asia and Pacific Office, P.O. Box 11, Samyaeak Ladprao, Bangkok 10901

Telephone: +66 (2) 537-8189; Facsimile: +66 (2) 537-8199; Sitatex: BKKCAYA

United Kingdom. Documedia Cheltenham Ltd., c/o Finance Department, 37 Windsor Street, Cheltenham,

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Foreword

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance to States in establishing their regulatory system for the certification of land aerodromes. The establishment of such a regulatory system is intended to ensure that the facilities, equipment and operational procedures at certified aerodromes are in compliance with the Standards and Recommended Practices specified in Volume I of Annex 14 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, and to any national standards and practices in force. This manual also provides guidance on aerodrome certification procedures and on the subsequent compliance and enforcement of the aerodrome operator's obligations. Guidance material on the organizational aspects of the regulatory authority is also included.

It is recognized that a State may limit the certification requirement to the operation of certain aerodromes only, distinguishing between factors such as the maximum number of passenger seats in the aeroplanes served by the aerodrome or the maximum take-off weight of the aeroplanes; whether the operations are scheduled or unscheduled; and whether the aerodrome is open for use at night. Since the safety of operations at all aerodromes is the responsibility of the State, the State's regulations may also need to cover the operation of uncertified aerodromes. Such additional regulations are not covered in this manual; the practices of certain States in this respect are, however, briefly mentioned in the introductory note to model regulations 3B.1.1, 3B.1.2 and 3B.1.3 in Chapter 3.

The scope of this manual is confined to the safety, regularity and efficiency aspects of aerodrome facilities, services, equipment and operational procedures and

excludes the subjects of aviation security, air navigation services and other areas; these subjects are normally covered by separate regulations. The aerodrome certification regulations focus on the safety, regularity and efficiency of aircraft operations at aerodromes. This manual, therefore, excludes the aspects of aerodrome operations relating to the administration of aerodrome finances and the servicing of passengers and cargo.

It is recognized that it may not be feasible for a State with a limited number of aerodromes under its jurisdiction, or which lacks technical and financial resources, to establish a full organizational structure dealing with aerodrome certification, compliance and enforcement. A State in this position should not, however, diminish the stringency of its regulations in any way; it should consider entering into a cooperative arrangement with another State or participating in a suitable regional cooperation arrangement. The ICAO Regional Office accredited to the State may be of assistance in establishing such an arrangement under the Technical Cooperation Programme of ICAO.

In developing this manual, account was taken of the current aerodrome certification or licensing regulations and procedures of certain States. However, it is recognized that the changing aviation safety environment may necessitate revision of a State's regulations from time to time. It is intended that this manual be kept up to date. Future editions will most likely be improved on the basis of experience gained and of comments and suggestions received from the users of this manual. Readers are invited to give their views, comments and suggestions on this edition. These should be directed to the Secretary General of ICAO.