
VOLUME 1. GENERAL CONCEPTS, DIRECTION, GUIDANCE, AND DEFINITIONS

CHAPTER 3. INTERNATIONAL AVIATION

SECTION 1. THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

81. GENERAL.

A. This chapter is an overview of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), including its objectives, responsibilities, and influence on international civil aviation. Additional information on this organization is in volume 4, chapter 1, as it relates specifically to air navigation, and volume 2, chapter 4, as it relates to foreign operators.

B. The requirements to comply with international aviation rules are not always apparent. For example, on-demand operators conducting flights between the United States and Canada or Mexico and helicopter operators going to or from offshore helicopter platforms in international waters must comply with international aviation rules. Therefore, inspectors responsible for operators involved in international activity must be familiar with the content and details of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.

83. THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

A. World War II had a major effect on technical development of aircraft, telescoping one quarter century of normal peacetime development into 6 years. There were many political and technical problems which had to be solved to benefit and support a world at peace. Safety and regularity in air transportation necessitated airports, installation of navigational aids, and weather reporting systems. Standardization of methods for providing international services was fundamentally important to preclude unsafe conditions caused by misunderstanding or inexperience. Establishment of standards for rules of air navigation, air traffic control, personnel licensing, airport design, and for many other important issues related to air safety required “international” action.

B. Questions of commercial and legal rights and arrangements for developing airlines to fly into and through the territories of another country led the United States to conduct exploratory discussions with other allied nations during early 1944. On the basis of these talks, invitations were sent to allied and neutral states (countries) to meet in Chicago in November 1944.

C. The outcome of this “Chicago Convention” was a

treaty requiring ratification by 26 of the 52 states that met. By ratifying the Convention, contracting states agreed to pursue certain stated objectives, assume certain obligations, and establish an international organization. This organization became known as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

85. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION.

A. As a charter member of ICAO, the United States has fully supported the organization’s goals from its inception, being especially concerned with technical matters. Through ICAO, the United States works to achieve the highest practical, uniform air regulations, standards, and procedures for aircraft, personnel, airways, and aviation services throughout the world. At the same time, the United States depends upon ICAO to ensure that navigation facilities, airports, weather, and radio services provided by other nations meet international standards.

B. Through active support and participation in ICAO, FAA strives to improve worldwide safety standards and procedures to make international flying more efficient and economical. It also provides technical assistance to other nations when needed.

C. As of January 1988, FAA had 168 agreements with 62 foreign countries to provide technical assistance in areas such as flight inspection, training, air traffic development, loan of equipment and navigational aids, and supply support. The specific terms of these arrangements are detailed in memorandums of agreement which include descriptions of the services, special conditions, financial provisions, liability information, effective dates, termination dates, and other information required for particular situations. Agreements involving international activities are negotiated and signed, on behalf of FAA, by the Director, Office of International Aviation.

86-88. RESERVED.

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