



INTERNATIONAL SPACE POLICY WORKING GROUP

OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION

Finding

It would be beneficial if future ISO standards would be consistent with the human spaceflight standards that are currently under development in the FAA AST.

Finding

It would be beneficial to the domestic and international operations of U.S. industry if FAA AST could promote the adoption of its human spaceflight standards domestically through ANSI and internationally through ISO.

Recommendation

COMSTAC recommends that FAA AST keep ISO's TC20/SC14 Technical Advisory Committee members informed of developments in the FAA AST human spaceflight standards.

FAA INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH EFFORT

Observation

Other countries generally lack a separate governmental office analogous to the FAA AST that is dedicated to the licensing of spacecraft.

Finding

A separate office dedicated to licensing spacecraft is necessary because of the special technological, business and legal issues that are unique to the spaceflight industry.

Finding

The COMSTAC finds that it would assist foreign countries in treating suborbital spacecraft differently from aircraft if a separate governmental office were created for the licensing of spacecraft.

Recommendation

The COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST encourage the aviation authorities of foreign countries to create a separate office for the licensing of spacecraft.

IAASS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Observation

The ISPWG conducted a conference call with IAASS representatives in July 2014 in order to provide input to the IAASS regarding its human spaceflight standards setting initiatives and to gauge the current status of these initiatives.

Finding

The teleconference conversation indicated that the IAASS was unresponsive to the concerns expressed by the ISPWG during the conference call and by the Operations Working Group at its May 2014 meeting.

Recommendation

While the COMSTAC supports the adoption of a rational and appropriate standard setting process, the COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST oppose the proliferation of standards following the approach taken by the IAASS in its current form.