

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT AGENCY



CASSOA PROFILE

Establishment

In accordance with the Chicago Convention (the International Agreement governing international civil aviation operations), a State has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory. Nevertheless, on adhering to the Convention, a State agrees to certain principles and arrangements in order that international civil aviation may be developed in a safe and orderly manner.

On 18th April 2007, following fruitful deliberations by civil aviation and legal experts of the EAC, the EAC Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the EAC Civil Aviation Safety and Security Agency (CASSOA) as an autonomous self-accounting institution of the Community. Thereafter, CASSOA commenced operations on 1st June 2007 in Arusha, Tanzania, at the seat of the East African Community Secretariat.

Mandate

The Agency derives its mandate from Article 92 of the EAC Treaty which in summary states that the Partner States shall undertake to make air transport services safe, efficient and profitable; adopt common policies for the development of civil air transport in the region; harmonise civil aviation rules and regulations and coordinate measures and co-operate in the maintenance of high security.

Objectives and functions

The primary objectives of the Agency as stated in the Protocol for the Establishment of CASSOA are to:

- a) Promote the safe, secure and efficient use and development of civil aviation within and outside the Partner States;
- b) Assist the Partner States in meeting their safety and security oversight obligations and responsibilities under the Chicago Convention and its Annexes; and
- c) Provide the Partner States with an appropriate forum and structure to discuss plan and implement common measures required for achieving the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation through the implementation of international standards and recommended practices relating to the safety and security of civil aviation.

CASSOA is also involved in three major functions, namely:

- a) Harmonising operating regulations to ensure that they meet international standards and recommended practices;
- b) Developing standardised procedures for licensing, approving, certifying and supervising civil aviation activities; and
- c) Providing guidance and assistance to Partner States including putting in place measures for resource sharing particularly for the technical personnel.

Funding

The funds that run CASSOA's activities are derived from:

- a) Contributions from the Partner States through their CAAs;
- b) Resources mobilized by the EAC Secretariat;
- c) Grants from regional and international development partners;
- d) Revenue from some of the activities of the Agency; and
- e) Any other sources as may be approved by the EAC Council of Ministers

Achievements

In its eight years of operation, CASSOA has been able to make eight commendable achievements despite constraints in both human and financial resources at its disposal, namely:

1. Coordination of the promulgation of the harmonized Civil Aviation Safety and Security Regulations in the Partner States;
2. Development of the Technical Guidance Materials for assisting both the regulators and service providers to abide by the Regulations;
3. Assisting Partner States in preparing for ICAO Safety and Security audits and thereafter developing harmonized Corrective Action Plans to address the findings;
4. Capacity building for the Partner States' safety and security inspectors;
5. Establishment of the regional Centre for Aviation Medicine, the first of its kind in the World;
6. Establishment of a harmonized computerized EAC Aviation Examination System for purposes of personnel licensing;
7. Development of a harmonized EAC Inspector Training System for Airworthiness and Flight Operations Inspectors (currently the one for Air Navigation Services (ANS) Inspectors is under development); and
8. The development of a Safety Oversight Facilitated and Integrated Application software – SOFIA, that assists Inspectors to carry out their safety oversight obligations effectively.

Some of the key ongoing programmes are:

1. Assistance to EAC Partner States in capacity building in the area of flight operations courtesy of ICAO through their SAFE fund over a period of two years;
2. Development of an Inspector Training System for ANS;
3. Development of a harmonized EAC aviation examination syllabus;
4. Development of a computer based training programme for aviation security; and
5. Preparatory programme for a roadmap to successful ICAO aviation security audits for the Partner States of Kenya and Tanzania.

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