



ICAO

International Standards
and Recommended Practices

Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation

Twelfth Edition, July 2020



This edition supersedes, on 5 November 2020, all previous editions of Annex 13.

For information regarding the applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices, see Chapter 2 and the Foreword.

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AMENDMENTS

Amendments are announced in the supplements to the *Products and Services Catalogue*; the Catalogue and its supplements are available on the ICAO website at www.icao.int. The space below is provided to keep a record of such amendments.

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS AND CORRIGENDA

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FOREWORD

Historical background

Standards and Recommended Practices for Aircraft Accident Inquiries were first adopted by the Council on 11 April 1951 pursuant to Article 37 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, 1944) and were designated as Annex 13 to the Convention. The Standards and Recommended Practices were based on recommendations of the Accident Investigation Division at its First Session in February 1946 which were further developed at the Second Session of the Division in February 1947.

The Fourteenth Session of the Assembly (Rome, August–September 1962) considered the subject of aircraft accident investigation and adopted Resolutions A14-22 and A14-27, Appendix P.^{*} The first of these:

1) *directed* “the Council to:

“a) study the possibility of initiating a uniform procedure to be used by States to make available promptly the reports of aircraft accident investigations and inquiries, particularly when related to large modern transport aircraft, so that the dissemination of such reports by all Contracting States may be improved;

“b) study whether it is practicable to establish procedures by which the State of Manufacture or the State that first certificated the aircraft type, would, in appropriate cases and upon invitation, make available competent experts for advice or consultation in the investigation of accidents, and in the light of the results of such study:

“i) determine the most practicable means of ensuring that the fullest possible advantage will be taken of the specialized knowledge of such experts and notify all Contracting States accordingly, and

“ii) urge all Contracting States to co-operate in the use of such experts so as to contribute to the safety of air navigation;”

and

2) *urged* “all Contracting States to provide timely notification of aircraft accidents, especially those involving large modern transport aircraft, to the State of Manufacture or the State that first certificated the aircraft type, whenever it is considered that such action would be appropriate.”

In addition, by Resolution A14-27, Appendix P, the Assembly resolved that, “in respect of accident investigation, that it is of great importance for the general improvement of the safety of air navigation that, to the greatest practicable extent, a Contracting State in which an accident has occurred involving aircraft other than of its manufacture communicate to the State of Manufacture as soon as possible any pertinent information which results from the inquiry and which may reflect on the airworthiness of the aircraft type or its equipment, or which might be used to effect improvement in safety.”

Table A shows the origin of subsequent amendments together with a list of the principal subjects involved and the dates on which the Annex and the amendments were adopted by the Council, when they became effective and when they became applicable.

^{*} The Fifteenth Session of the Assembly (Montreal, June–July 1965) subsequently adopted Resolution A15-8, Appendix P, which consolidated and superseded resolving clause 2 of Resolution A14-22 and Resolution A14-27, Appendix P.

Applicability

While the Annex has been adopted pursuant to the provisions of Article 37 of the Convention, Aircraft Accident Inquiry is itself the subject of Article 26 of the Convention. This Article imposes an obligation on the State in which the aircraft accident occurs to institute an inquiry in certain circumstances and, as far as its laws permit, to conduct the inquiry in accordance with ICAO procedure. However, Article 26 does not preclude the taking of further action in the field of aircraft accident investigation and the procedures set forth in this Annex are not limited solely to an inquiry instituted under the requirements of Article 26, but under prescribed circumstances apply in the event of an inquiry into any “aircraft accident” within the terms of the definition herein. In order to maintain the correct relationship between the provisions of Article 26 and those of the Annex, the following principles have been observed:

- a) Article 37 of the Convention is the Controlling Article in the development of an Aircraft Accident Inquiry Annex, but nothing in the Annex must contravene the express terms of Article 26, or any other Article of the Convention, nor should it contain any provision which would do violence to the spirit and intent of the Convention.
- b) Subject to a) the Annex may deal with any relevant matter whether or not expressly dealt with by Article 26 or by any other Article of the Convention. For instance it is not a contravention of the Convention for the Annex to deal with the rights or obligations of States other than the State of Registry and the State in which the accident occurred; similarly the Annex may deal with the privileges to be accorded to observers entitled by Article 26 to be “present” at the inquiry. These are matters upon which Article 26 is silent. The Annex may also deal with accidents of a kind which do not fall within the provisions of Article 26.

Relationship between Annex 13 and Article 26 of the Convention

In order to clarify the relationship between the provisions of Article 26 and those of the present Annex the Council, at the 20th meeting of its Twelfth Session on 13 April 1951, adopted the following additional resolution:

“Whereas Article 26 of the Convention provides that a State in which an accident to an aircraft occurs within the terms of the Article, ‘will institute an inquiry into the circumstances of the accident in accordance, in so far as its laws permit, with the procedure which may be recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization’; and

“Whereas the Council, at the 18th meeting of its Twelfth Session on 11 April 1951, adopted Annex 13 on Aircraft Accident Inquiry;

“The Council recommends the Standards and Recommended Practices for Aircraft Accident Inquiry contained in Annex 13 to the Convention, as the procedure to be followed by Contracting States for inquiries into accidents involving death or serious injury and instituted in accordance with the provisions of Article 26;

“It being understood:

- “1) that States may in accordance with Article 38 of the Convention, deviate from any provision of Annex 13, except that, with respect to accidents covered by terms of Article 26 of the Convention and pursuant to this Article, ‘the State in which the accident occurs will institute an inquiry’, ‘the State in which the aircraft is registered shall be given the opportunity to appoint observers to be present at the inquiry’ and ‘the State holding the inquiry shall communicate the report and findings in the matter to that State’; and
- “2) that the procedure here recommended is not applicable when an accident to an aircraft not involving death or serious injury ‘indicates serious technical defect in the aircraft or air navigation facilities’, in which cases and until ICAO recommends a procedure to this effect, the inquiry shall be conducted in accordance with the national procedure of the State concerned, subject to the obligations deriving from the provisions of Article 26.”

The accredited representative and the advisers referred to in the Annex together comprise the observers that are given the right to be present at an inquiry under Article 26.

Action by Contracting States

Notification of differences. The attention of Contracting States is drawn to the obligation imposed by Article 38 of the Convention by which Contracting States are required to notify the Organization of any differences between their national regulations and practices and the International Standards contained in this Annex and any amendments thereto. Contracting States are invited to extend such notification to any differences from the Recommended Practices contained in this Annex and any amendments thereto, when the notification of such differences is important for the safety of air navigation. Further, Contracting States are invited to keep the Organization currently informed of any differences which may subsequently occur, or of the withdrawal of any differences previously notified. A specific request for notification of differences will be sent to Contracting States immediately after the adoption of each amendment to this Annex.

Attention of States is also drawn to the provisions of Annex 15 related to the publication of differences between their national regulations and practices and the related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices through the Aeronautical Information Service, in addition to the obligation of States under Article 38 of the Convention.

Use of the text of the Annex in national regulations. The Council, on 13 April 1948, adopted a resolution inviting the attention of Contracting States to the desirability of using in their own national regulations, as far as is practicable, the precise language of those ICAO Standards that are of a regulatory character and also of indicating departures from the Standards, including any additional national regulations that were important for the safety or regularity of air navigation. However, the Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 13 while of general applicability will, in many cases, require amplification in order to enable a complete national code to be formulated.

Status of Annex components

An Annex is made up of the following component parts, not all of which, however, are necessarily found in every Annex; they have the status indicated:

1.— *Material comprising the Annex proper:*

- a) *Standards and Recommended Practices* adopted by the Council under the provisions of the Convention. They are defined as follows:

Standard: Any specification for physical characteristics, configuration, matériel, performance, personnel or procedure, the uniform application of which is recognized as necessary for the safety or regularity of international air navigation and to which Contracting States will conform in accordance with the Convention; in the event of impossibility of compliance, notification to the Council is compulsory under Article 38.

Recommended Practice: Any specification for physical characteristics, configuration, matériel, performance, personnel or procedure, the uniform application of which is recognized as desirable in the interests of safety, regularity or efficiency of international air navigation, and to which Contracting States will endeavour to conform in accordance with the Convention.

- b) *Appendices* comprising material grouped separately for convenience but forming part of the Standards and Recommended Practices adopted by the Council.
- c) *Provisions* governing the applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices.

- d) *Definitions* of terms used in the Standards and Recommended Practices which are not self-explanatory in that they do not have accepted dictionary meanings. A definition does not have an independent status but is an essential part of each Standard and Recommended Practice in which the term is used, since a change in the meaning of the term would affect the specification.

2.— *Material approved by the Council for publication in association with the Standards and Recommended Practices:*

- a) *Forewords* comprising historical and explanatory material based on the action of the Council and including an explanation of the obligations of States with regard to the application of the Standards and Recommended Practices ensuing from the Convention and the Resolution of Adoption.
- b) *Introductions* comprising explanatory material introduced at the beginning of parts, chapters or sections of the Annex to assist in the understanding of the application of the text.
- c) *Notes* included in the text, where appropriate, to give factual information or references bearing on the Standards or Recommended Practices in question, but not constituting part of the Standards or Recommended Practices.
- d) *Attachments* comprising material supplementary to the Standards and Recommended Practices, or included as a guide to their application.

Selection of language

This Annex has been adopted in six languages — English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. Each Contracting State is requested to select one of those texts for the purpose of national implementation and for other effects provided for in the Convention, either through direct use or through translation into its own national language, and to notify the Organization accordingly.

Editorial practices

The following practice has been adhered to in order to indicate at a glance the status of each statement: *Standards* have been printed in light face roman; *Recommended Practices* have been printed in light face italics, the status being indicated by the prefix **Recommendation**; *Notes* have been printed in light face italics, the status being indicated by the prefix *Note*.

The following editorial practice has been followed in the writing of specifications: for Standards the operative verb “shall” is used, and for Recommended Practices the operative verb “should” is used.

Any reference to a portion of this document which is identified by a number includes all subdivisions of that portion.

Throughout this Annex, the use of the male gender should be understood to include male and female persons.

Table A. Amendments to Annex 13

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
1st Edition	First and Second Sessions of the Accident Investigation Division	—	11 April 1951 1 September 1951 1 December 1951
1 (2nd Edition)	Assembly Resolutions A14-22 and A14-27, Appendix P Third Session of the Accident Investigation Division	New definitions; rights and obligations of the State of Manufacture; initial and subsequent notification of an accident; attendance of representatives of the operator; report on the inquiry; summary of the Report and its format.	24 November 1965 24 March 1966 25 August 1966
2	Third Session of the Accident Investigation Division	Communication procedures for sending aircraft accident notification.	5 December 1966 5 April 1967 24 August 1967
3	Personnel Licensing/Training Practices/Medical Divisional Meeting (1970)	Autopsy of victims of aircraft accidents and reporting of the results.	27 March 1972 27 July 1972 7 December 1972
4 (3rd Edition)	Air Navigation Commission study	Notification of all accidents to multi-engined aircraft of over 2 250 kg (5 000 lb); notification and exchange of information on incidents.	12 December 1972 12 April 1973 16 August 1973
5 (4th Edition)	Accident Investigation and Prevention Divisional Meeting (AIG/1974) Committee on Unlawful Interference	Change of title; deletion and addition of definitions; objective of an investigation; use of flight recorders and privileged status to be granted to certain investigation records; action to be taken by a State receiving safety recommendations; responsibility of the State of Registry to participate in the investigation of certain accidents when requested, to provide flight recorders under certain circumstances and to request participation of the State of Manufacture when the former State conducts the investigation and matters of airworthiness are involved; rights and obligations of the State of Manufacture to participate in certain investigations; rights and entitlement of the State having special interest in an accident by virtue of fatalities to its citizens; the Accident/Incident Data Reporting (ADREP) system; Investigator-in-charge to inform aviation security authorities, when necessary.	18 December 1975 18 April 1976 12 August 1976
6 (5th Edition)	Accident Investigation and Prevention Divisional Meeting (AIG/1974)	Addition of the words “on the basis of his qualifications” in the definitions of accredited representative, adviser and investigator-in-charge; new definition and specifications regarding the State of the Operator in the case of aircraft leased, chartered or interchanged; responsibility of the State of Registry for sending accident notification any time that State institutes the investigation; coordination between investigator-in-charge and judicial authorities; elimination of reference to number of engines; new specification for publication of the Final Report.	24 November 1978 24 March 1979 29 November 1979
7 (6th Edition)	Accident Investigation and Prevention Divisional Meeting (AIG/1979)	Addition, in the definition of accident, of injuries inflicted by parts of an aircraft or by jet blast; strengthening of the general specification concerning the conduct of the investigation; strengthening of the specification regarding disclosure of records; strengthening of the specification for consultation on the Final Report; deletion of the specifications regarding a “Summary of the Final Report” and references thereto; change of the specification concerning the forwarding to ICAO of the Final Report; expansion of the specification on publication of the Final Report or related documents; new chapter on accident prevention measures; new attachment regarding exchange of Final Reports between States and a list of Final Reports available in States.	24 November 1980 24 March 1981 26 November 1981

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
8 (7th Edition)	Air Navigation Commission	Addition, in the definition of serious injury, of exposure to infectious substances and injurious radiation; new attachment regarding disclosure of records; editorial changes.	22 January 1988 22 May 1988 17 November 1988
9 (8th Edition)	Accident Investigation Divisional Meeting (AIG/1992)	Change of title; new or revised definitions of causes, investigation, serious incident, State of Design, State of Manufacture, and State of the Operator; strengthening of the specifications concerning applicability and the objective of the investigation; strengthening of the specifications concerning the responsibilities, rights and entitlements of the State of Design and the State of Manufacture; new specifications concerning the notification and investigation of serious incidents; strengthening of the specifications concerning notification of accidents and serious incidents; new specification concerning assistance by States nearest to an accident in international waters; new specification concerning the separation of any judicial or administrative proceedings to apportion blame or liability from an accident investigation; strengthening of the specifications concerning the use and read-out of the flight recorders; strengthening of the specifications concerning autopsy examinations and coordination with the judicial authorities; strengthening of the specifications concerning disclosure of records and deletion of the related attachment; strengthening of the specifications concerning the responsibility of other States to provide information and their rights of participation; new specification concerning organizational information and strengthening of the specifications concerning the participation of the operator; strengthening of the specifications concerning the entitlement of accredited representatives and a new specification concerning their obligations; strengthening of the specification concerning participation of States having suffered fatalities or serious injuries to its citizens; strengthening of the specifications concerning the ADREP preliminary report and the accident/incident data report; strengthening of the specifications concerning consultation, publication and dissemination of the Final Report; new and strengthened specifications concerning accident prevention measures; new subparagraph and changes to the format of the Final Report in the Appendix; updated notification and reporting checklist in Attachment B; list of examples of serious incidents as a new Attachment D.	23 March 1994 25 July 1994 10 November 1994
10 (9th Edition)	Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIG) Divisional Meeting (1999)	Changes to the notification of an accident or serious incident and new provisions to acknowledge receipt of the notification; new provisions to provide details of dangerous goods; widening the provisions for responsibility to initiate, conduct and delegate the investigation; new provisions for medical examinations; aligning the rights and obligations of the State of Registry and the State of the Operator with those of the State of Design and the State of Manufacture; strengthening of the provisions of participation of States having suffered fatalities to its citizens; new title for Chapter 6 which contains the provisions related to the Final Report; strengthening of the consultation procedure and inclusion of the operator and the manufacturer; new provision for interim reports; new title for Chapter 7 which contains the provisions for ADREP reporting; strengthening of the provisions on mandatory incident reporting systems; new provisions on voluntary incident reporting systems and non-punitive environment; strengthening of the provisions on database systems, analysis of data and preventive actions; new provision on exchange of safety information; updating of Attachment B; deletion of Attachment C; new Attachment on guidelines for flight recorder read-out and analysis.	26 February 2001 16 July 2001 1 November 2001

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
11	Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIG) Divisional Meeting (1999); Air Navigation Commission; Assembly Resolution A35-17	a) participation of other States in investigations; b) non-disclosure of recordings and transcripts of recordings from air traffic control units; and c) legal guidance for the protection of information from safety data collection and processing systems.	3 March 2006 17 July 2006 23 November 2006
12-A	Air Navigation Commission	Expansion of some examples and the addition of runway incursion severity A in the list of serious incidents in Attachment C.	2 March 2009 20 July 2009 19 November 2009
12-B	Air Navigation Commission	Addition of a definition of a State safety programme; new specification concerning the establishment by States of a State safety programme; strengthening of specifications regarding the establishment of a voluntary incident reporting system, and an accident and incident database; new recommendation addressing the monitoring of preventive actions which have been implemented; and the framework for a State safety programme as a new Attachment F.	2 March 2009 20 July 2009 18 November 2010
13 (10th Edition)	Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIG) Divisional Meeting (2008)	Revised definitions of accident (to accommodate unmanned aircraft systems), accredited representative, causes, investigation, safety recommendation, serious incident; new specification on the notification to ICAO of accidents and serious incidents to turbojet-powered aeroplanes of a maximum mass equal to or below 2 250 kg; deletion of reference to the name of the pilot in the notification of accidents and serious incidents; inclusion of the possibility to delegate investigations to regional accident investigation organizations; new provision concerning the investigation of serious incidents to aircraft of a maximum mass of over 2 250 kg; expansion of provision concerning the extension of investigations based on lessons expected; strengthening of provision concerning the separation of investigation from any judicial or administrative proceedings to apportion blame or liability; new provision concerning the development of documented policies and procedures for investigations; new provision to ensure that investigations are not impeded by administrative or judicial investigations; widening the specification concerning the disclosure of records to address cockpit airborne image recordings and their transcripts; new provision to avoid disclosure of the names of the persons involved in accidents and incidents; revised provision addressing participation of States which suffered fatalities or serious injuries to its citizens; new specification regarding the release of information and progress of the investigation; revised provision concerning the need to make the Final Report publicly available; strengthening the provision on the release of an interim statement on each anniversary of the occurrence; revised provisions addressing safety recommendations to include a time frame for actions to be taken; new provisions on the control of responses to safety recommendations as well as monitoring of actions taken; revised specifications in the Appendix concerning the use of “causes” and/or “contributing factors”; updated notification and reporting checklist in Attachment B; inclusion of uncontained turbine engine failure as a serious incident in Attachment C; new Attachment G on guidance for the determination of aircraft damage.	22 February 2010 12 July 2010 18 November 2010
14	Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIG) Divisional Meeting (2008); Safety Management Panel (SMP)	New definition for “contributing factors” and amendment to the definition of State safety programme (SSP); transfer to Annex 19 of the following: SSP-related Standard in Chapter 3; overarching safety management provisions in Chapter 8 and Attachment F, framework for SSP; amendment to Standard on the establishment of database, and new provision on assessment of accident and incident database in Chapter 8; expansion of Attachment C, list of serious incidents.	25 February 2013 15 July 2013 14 November 2013

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
15 (11th Edition)	Safety Management Panel (SMP); Group of Experts on Protection of Accident and Incident Records (GEPAIR); Safety Information Protection Task Force (SIP TF)	New definition for “accident investigation authority”; Standard on establishment of independent accident investigation authority; new provision on cooperation between investigation authorities and judicial authorities; enhanced protection of investigation records in 5.12; new Appendix 2 on protection of investigation records.	22 February 2016 11 July 2016 10 November 2016
16	Accident Investigation Panel (AIGP)	Upgrading of Recommendations relating to access to evidential material during investigations, and monitoring the progress of safety recommendations to Standards.	9 March 2018 16 July 2018 8 November 2018
17	Third Meeting of the Accident Investigation Panel (AIGP/3)	Amendment to the definition for “accredited representative”; alignment of provisions on notification to accommodate incidents and dissemination of Final Reports; new provisions related to timely investigation of accidents and serious incidents and release of Final Reports; amendment to the note regarding facilitation of the entry of investigators; introduction of a new note on consultation of draft safety recommendations; amendment to the list of examples of serious incidents and new guidance in Attachment C; new Attachment F on delegation of investigations.	27 February 2019 13 July 2019 5 November 2020
18 (12th Edition)	Fourth meeting of the Accident Investigation Panel (AIGP/4)	New definition and Standard for “safety recommendation of global concern (SRGC)” and revised provisions on recorded data for accident and incident investigations.	9 March 2020 20 July 2020 5 November 2020

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

CHAPTER 1. DEFINITIONS

When the following terms are used in the Standards and Recommended Practices for Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation, they have the following meanings:

Accident. An occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which, in the case of a manned aircraft, takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all such persons have disembarked, or in the case of an unmanned aircraft, takes place between the time the aircraft is ready to move with the purpose of flight until such time as it comes to rest at the end of the flight and the primary propulsion system is shut down, in which:

a) a person is fatally or seriously injured as a result of:

- being in the aircraft, or
- direct contact with any part of the aircraft, including parts which have become detached from the aircraft, or
- direct exposure to jet blast,

except when the injuries are from natural causes, self-inflicted or inflicted by other persons, or when the injuries are to stowaways hiding outside the areas normally available to the passengers and crew; or

b) the aircraft sustains damage or structural failure which:

- adversely affects the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft, and
- would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component,

except for engine failure or damage, when the damage is limited to a single engine (including its cowlings or accessories), to propellers, wing tips, antennas, probes, vanes, tires, brakes, wheels, fairings, panels, landing gear doors, windcreens, the aircraft skin (such as small dents or puncture holes), or for minor damages to main rotor blades, tail rotor blades, landing gear, and those resulting from hail or bird strike (including holes in the radome); or

c) the aircraft is missing or is completely inaccessible.

Note 1.— For statistical uniformity only, an injury resulting in death within thirty days of the date of the accident is classified, by ICAO, as a fatal injury.

Note 2.— An aircraft is considered to be missing when the official search has been terminated and the wreckage has not been located.

Note 3.— The type of unmanned aircraft system to be investigated is addressed in 5.1.

Note 4.— Guidance for the determination of aircraft damage can be found in Attachment E.

Accident investigation authority. The authority designated by a State as responsible for aircraft accident and incident investigations within the context of this Annex.

Accredited representative. A person designated by a State, on the basis of his or her qualifications, for the purpose of participating in an investigation conducted by another State. The accredited representative would normally be from the State's accident investigation authority.

Adviser. A person appointed by a State, on the basis of his or her qualifications, for the purpose of assisting its accredited representative in an investigation.

Aircraft. Any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air other than the reactions of the air against the earth's surface.

Causes. Actions, omissions, events, conditions, or a combination thereof, which led to the accident or incident. The identification of causes does not imply the assignment of fault or the determination of administrative, civil or criminal liability.

Contributing factors. Actions, omissions, events, conditions, or a combination thereof, which, if eliminated, avoided or absent, would have reduced the probability of the accident or incident occurring, or mitigated the severity of the consequences of the accident or incident. The identification of contributing factors does not imply the assignment of fault or the determination of administrative, civil or criminal liability.

Flight recorder. Any type of recorder installed in the aircraft for the purpose of complementing accident/incident investigation.

Automatic deployable flight recorder (ADFR). A combination flight recorder installed on the aircraft which is capable of automatically deploying from the aircraft.

Note.— See Annex 6 — Operation of Aircraft, Parts I, II and III, for specifications relating to flight recorders.

Incident. An occurrence, other than an accident, associated with the operation of an aircraft which affects or could affect the safety of operation.

Note.— The types of incidents which are of main interest to the International Civil Aviation Organization for accident prevention studies are listed in Attachment C.

Investigation. A process conducted for the purpose of accident prevention which includes the gathering and analysis of information, the drawing of conclusions, including the determination of causes and/or contributing factors and, when appropriate, the making of safety recommendations.

Investigator-in-charge. A person charged, on the basis of his or her qualifications, with the responsibility for the organization, conduct and control of an investigation.

Note.— Nothing in the above definition is intended to preclude the functions of an investigator-in-charge being assigned to a commission or other body.

Maximum mass. Maximum certificated take-off mass.

Operator. The person, organization or enterprise engaged in or offering to engage in an aircraft operation.

Preliminary Report. The communication used for the prompt dissemination of data obtained during the early stages of the investigation.

Safety recommendation. A proposal of an accident investigation authority based on information derived from an investigation, made with the intention of preventing accidents or incidents and which in no case has the purpose of creating a presumption of blame or liability for an accident or incident. In addition to safety recommendations arising from accident and incident investigations, safety recommendations may result from diverse sources, including safety studies.

Safety recommendation of global concern (SRGC). A safety recommendation regarding a systemic deficiency having a probability of recurrence, with significant consequences at a global level, and requiring timely action to improve safety.

Note.— The Manual of Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (Doc 9756), Part IV — Reporting contains the criteria for a recommendation to be classified as an SRGC.

Serious incident. An incident involving circumstances indicating that there was a high probability of an accident and associated with the operation of an aircraft which, in the case of a manned aircraft, takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all such persons have disembarked, or in the case of an unmanned aircraft, takes place between the time the aircraft is ready to move with the purpose of flight until such time as it comes to rest at the end of the flight and the primary propulsion system is shut down.

Note 1.— The difference between an accident and a serious incident lies only in the result.

Note 2.— Examples of serious incidents can be found in Attachment C.

Serious injury. An injury which is sustained by a person in an accident and which:

- a) requires hospitalization for more than 48 hours, commencing within seven days from the date the injury was received; or
- b) results in a fracture of any bone (except simple fractures of fingers, toes or nose); or
- c) involves lacerations which cause severe haemorrhage, nerve, muscle or tendon damage; or
- d) involves injury to any internal organ; or
- e) involves second or third degree burns, or any burns affecting more than 5 per cent of the body surface; or
- f) involves verified exposure to infectious substances or injurious radiation.

State of Design. The State having jurisdiction over the organization responsible for the type design.

State of Manufacture. The State having jurisdiction over the organization responsible for the final assembly of the aircraft, engine or propeller.

State of Occurrence. The State in the territory of which an accident or incident occurs.

State of the Operator. The State in which the operator's principal place of business is located or, if there is no such place of business, the operator's permanent residence.

State of Registry. The State on whose register the aircraft is entered.

Note.— In the case of the registration of aircraft of an international operating agency on other than a national basis, the States constituting the agency are jointly and severally bound to assume the obligations which, under the Chicago Convention, attach to a State of Registry. See, in this regard, the Council Resolution of 14 December 1967 on Nationality and

Registration of Aircraft Operated by International Operating Agencies which can be found in Policy and Guidance Material on the Economic Regulation of International Air Transport (Doc 9587).

State safety programme (SSP). An integrated set of regulations and activities aimed at improving safety.

CHAPTER 2. APPLICABILITY

2.1 Unless otherwise stated, the specifications in this Annex apply to activities following accidents and incidents wherever they occurred.

Note.— The application of this specification with respect to accidents or serious incidents occurring in the territory of a non-Contracting State, in an area of undetermined sovereignty or on the high seas is addressed in 5.2 and 5.3.

2.2 In this Annex the specifications concerning the State of the Operator apply only when an aircraft is leased, chartered or interchanged and when that State is not the State of Registry and if it discharges, in respect of this Annex, in part or in whole, the functions and obligations of the State of Registry.