

Reference for classifications: Report on the ICAO Evaluation of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations

CLASSIFICATION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE RSOO/COSCAPs

4.1 Increase usage of the term RSOO in the ICAO Annexes requires that greater clarity be given to the functions carried out by the different types of RSOO. The Forum therefore agreed that the level of complexity of the functions of an RSOO, as a safety oversight provider, should be classified as follows:

1. **Level 1** – Advisory and coordinating functions
2. **Level 2** – Operational assistance functions
3. **Level 3** – Certifying agency functions

4.2 Under Level 1, an RSOO provides advisory assistance to a member State or a group of States. No formal agreement is established directly between the RSOO and the State, for the delegation of functions for regulating, certifying or supervising industry entities. An RSOO may coordinate the use or release of an inspector to carry out inspections and audits for a State's civil aviation authority (CAA). In this case, the inspector acts in his/her individual capacity and the member State grants all required authorizations. Level 1 functions also include training, the harmonization of the aviation safety regulations of member States and the development of guidance manuals and other documentation. Other activities carried out by a number of RSOOs under Level 1 include coordinating and managing the surveillance of foreign air operators and facilitating the acceptance of a member State's approved maintenance organizations (AMOs), approved training organizations (ATOs) and approved aeromedical centres, by other States within the RSOO's region.

4.3 Under Level 2, the RSOO, in addition to carrying out all Level 1 functions, also provides operational assistance to a State or group of States on the basis of a formal and binding agreement. The operational assistance includes the conduct of audits, inspections and other investigations on industry entities. The State issues certificates, licences and approvals on the basis of the operational assistance provided. The RSOO can also conduct surveillance over the respective document holders. Under Level 2, the RSOO is empowered or granted delegated authority to carry out inspectorate activities that support the certification and surveillance responsibilities of the State.

4.4 Under Level 3, the RSOO, in addition to carrying out both Level 1 and Level 2 functions, is formally delegated by a binding agreement with a State (or group of States), to issue certificates, licences and approvals on its (or their) behalf. The State retains responsibility under the Chicago Convention for safety oversight and for any certificates, licences and approvals issued by the RSOO. The State exercises this responsibility by

monitoring the RSOO's capabilities. These certifying functions are carried out by RSOOs that are either empowered by a common legislative framework or are delegated authority through separate agreements with a State or group of States. The RSOO must at least be therefore empowered to accept legally binding delegations from its member States. To date, only two RSOOs (EASA and IAC) are empowered to carry out Level 3 functions.