

CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS OF AIRPORT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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The article is dealing with the certification of personnel, equipment and systems that ensure operation on airport movement areas, under civil aviation conditions applicable in the Slovak republic.

Key words: certification of personnel, equipment, systems airport operation, maintenance, airport movement areas

1 INTRODUCTION

Over the recent year trust is documented by way of certificates issued by a recognized and independent institution. Certificates can be awarded to persons, equipment, systems, products and quality management systems. The certification process involves 6 stages.

The certification authority has established conditions that govern issuance, continuation, extension, limitation, termination or withdrawal of certificates.

Certification of personnel is performed by a personnel certification authority entitled to do so in compliance with international standards and requirements. In Slovakia, such type of certificate is issued by the Certicos, a company residing in Piešťany.

Certification of quality management systems is also performed to the internationally agreed standards and requirements. The final product of this service is the certification compliance mark and the registered certificate.

2 CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

The Slovak Ministry of Transportation, Posts and Telecommunication is issuing for civil aviation the Regulations called L 1 - Airworthiness of personnel, annually amended on new facts and changes that come up in civil aviation. The L 1 provides a detailed description of requirements to be met by all the personnel in aviation transport. It also contains requirements set for health status, languages as well as the organization approved to

provide training.

3 LEGISLATIVE NORMS OF CERTIFICATION

Certification of personnel, equipment and systems providing operation and maintenance of airports in civil aviation of the Slovak republic is subjected to the generally applicable norms as follows:

- Manual for certification of airports ICAO DOC 9774-dealing with certification of airports as a whole.
- Law of the SNC No. 264 / 1999 Coll.
- Law of the SNC No. 618 / 1992 Coll.
- Airport Manual - handling optimization by way of standards and requirements set for airport maintenance system, however, not involving the conditions of certification.
- Decree of the MLSAaF No. 718/2002 Coll. - regulating labour health safety and protection when handling technical equipment.
- Decree of the SOSMT No. 246/1995 Coll.

Currently there are, however, no guidelines directly regulating the conditions of certifying personnel, equipment and systems that ensure operation and maintenance of airports. The issue is covered partly by the Airport manual, which, however, specifies only the necessary standards of equipment and personnel. The Slovak Civil Aviation Authority, therefore, characterizes the systems ensuring operation in line with the Decree of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Family No. 718/2002 Coll. As an exclusively

technical equipment. Personnel is characterized as the staff handling these equipments and the process of certification is governed by legislative norms applicable exclusively on technical equipment.

4 CERTIFICATION IN THE FIELD OF AIRPORT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The development of technical progress and increase in the volume of air transportation give rise to new needs or requirements on airport operation and services made up of a number of highly specialized activities. The crucial factors of their proper functioning are:

- professionalism of the personnel,
- technical equipment.

Certification is one of the means that influences quality both of the staff and the technical equipment.

4.1 CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL

Certification of personnel in airport operation and services is performed mostly in via a Personnel training programme. It is carried out by way of a mandatory and documented participation in basic and advanced training focused on:

- general training for drivers for airport operational areas,
 - specific training of driving vehicles, machines and technical equipment that ensure airport operation and maintenance on the airport movement areas,
 - substantial requirement is of operation these equipments consists in their ability to maintain VHF radio communication with the Tower.
- The training scope includes the knowledge of:
- general airport plan,
 - rules of the airport transportation,
 - regulations applicable to the specific vehicles,
 - risks associated with driving vehicles on the airport movement areas,
 - emergency procedures,
 - communication skills,
 - and practical training involving application of the knowledge acquired through theoretical training under the supervision of an instructor.

Testing of personnel from other organizations is ensured by the staffs of technical branches.

4.2 CERTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT

It involves a number of specific professional activities focused on the status of technical equipment in terms of functioning, safety etc. Certification of the equipment and systems is performed in compliance with the applicable norms and decrees. The supervisor is entitled to approve the equipment for operation if it obtains certification and the operational conditions also comply with the approved safety project and those applicable to the work on the certified equipment.

Prior to releasing the technical equipment for operation, the supervisor is liable to develop a Protocol of Approval for Technical Operation which defines the period of time of approved operation, conditions and ways of its use and the guidelines on handling the technical equipment.

The latter one specifies the tasks and measures resulting from the safety project. The guidelines are developed separately for the safety administrator, IT administrator and also for the users or groups of users.

Types of certification performed on technical equipments are including Type certification - verifying and certifying for compliance of the type characteristics in terms of the safety requirements and the Certification of individual technical equipment that verifies and certifies the compliance of the equipment characteristics with the safety requirements, if no other type-certificate has been issued by the authority.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The procedure to be adhered to by the testing facility when performing certification is outlined in the methodological procedures and is considered mandatory. The testing facility must observe both the subject and time related sequence of the procedure as outlined in the Methodology Guide, determining the required technical and accompanying

documentation, conditions of taking samples. It also assesses the level of technical norms and also state the extent and ways of ascertaining the requirements of the manufacturer to ensure lasting quality of the products certified.

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