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The following Aeronautical Information Circular is issued to all concerned for information, guidance and necessary action.

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Quality Assurance of Approved Training Organisations in ICAO contracting States

1. Background:

1.1 ICAO Annex 1 contains the standards for the approval of training organisations. In compliance with these standards, DGCA, India has laid down the criteria for approval of flying training organizations in the Civil Aviation Requirements. These approved training organizations provide training to persons for the issuance of Private/ Commercial Pilots' licence. DGCA, India also issues licences to persons on the basis of licences issued by other contracting States for which the requirements have been laid down in CAR Section 7 Series 'G' Part I - Requirements for Issue of Indian Licences and Aircraft Ratings to Pilots holding licences. Further, the requirements also cover endorsement of additional ratings on Indian licences on the basis of training undergone outside India for which the applicant is required to obtain prior approval of the training programme before proceeding abroad for training.

1.2 With the increased aviation activity in India during the recent years and due to limited availability and capacity of approved training organizations in the country, a number of Indian students are undergoing ab-initio flying training in training organizations in other

contracting States. On the basis of the licence issued by contracting States and on compliance with the requirements of the said CAR including the requisite examination, DGCA issues Indian licence to these pilots. DGCA also issues type endorsement on the licence of an Indian pilot after the pilot undergoes satisfactory type training in type-rated training organizations abroad as per the requirements laid down in the CAR.

1.3 While converting the foreign licences including type-endorsement on Indian licence based on training undergone abroad, it is expected that the approved training organizations of these contracting States meet the standards of ICAO Annex 1 and hold current approvals from their civil aviation authorities. However, in certain cases depending on formal/ informal feedback, DGCA may need to assure that these foreign training organizations meet the minimum standards of ICAO and impart training both ab-initio and type rating of desired quality. Accordingly, following quality assurance system is laid down.

2. Procedure for Foreign ab-initio training institutes:

2.1 Based on feedback received regarding quality, DGCA may initiate a consultation process with the regulatory authority of the concerned ICAO contracting State.

2.2 Based on the outcome of the consultation and with the agreement of the foreign regulatory authority, DGCA may conduct an inspection of approved training organization.

2.3 The inspection will be conducted by the DGCA official(s) along with a representative of the regulatory authority of the concerned contracting State.

2.4 The inspection will involve a quality check of the organization to ensure that the organization meets the standards of ICAO Annex 1. Differences filed by the State in this respect shall be taken into account while undertaking the inspection.

2.5 On the basis of the results of such an inspection, DGCA may hold additional consultation with the regulatory authority of the State and may require the regulatory authority to ensure that such additional requirements should be met for the training of its Indian students.

2.6 In case the result of the above inspection reveal that the Training Organization does not meet the minimum Standards of ICAO Annex 1 and pending the consultation process with the foreign regulatory

authority, DGCA may not accept the training conducted by these organization for the issuance of Indian licences. This information will be made available to the public on DGCA's website <http://dgca.gov.in>

3. Procedure for Type rated training organizations

- 3.1 On receiving feedback or even otherwise, DGCA may conduct an inspection of the foreign TRTO to ensure that the organization meet the minimum standards of ICAO Annex 1.
- 3.2 The inspection of the TRTO will involve an inspection of training facilities including a check on the quality system in place.
- 3.3 Outcomes of the above inspection including recommendations, if any will be provided to the TRTO for compliance under intimation to the concerned regulatory authority.
- 3.4 In case the result of the above inspection reveal that the Training Organization does not meet the minimum Standards of ICAO Annex 1 and pending compliance with the recommendations given in this regard, DGCA may withdraw the permission given to these organization for imparting training to Indian licence holders for type endorsement.

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