

INDIA SAFETY POLICY

Employing ICAO standards and recommended practices, as minimum international standards and recommended practices, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will ensure the highest level of safety in the Indian aviation system. Mindful of India's State Safety Programme (SSP), DGCA will maintain an integrated set of regulations and activities aimed at enhancing aviation safety.

DGCA will implement proactive and as far as possible predictive strategies encouraging all stakeholders/ service providers to understand the benefits of a safety culture, which should be based on an inclusive reporting culture. DGCA will foster and assist stakeholders in developing comprehensive Safety Management Systems (SMS) and will develop preventive safety strategies for the aviation system in an environment of a "just culture".

DGCA commits to:

- Develop and embed a safety culture across all aviation industries that recognizes the importance and value of effective aviation safety management and acknowledges at all times that safety is paramount;
- Support the management of safety in India through an effective safety reporting and communication system;
- Develop general rulemaking and specific operational policies that build upon safety management principles;
- Ensure that the DGCA financial and human resources are sufficient for implementation, establishment and maintenance of SSP and that personnel have the proper skills and are trained for discharging their responsibilities, both safety related and otherwise. That these personnel are specialists in their functional areas and competent in safety regulation of operators and service providers;
- Clearly define for all regulatory staff, their responsibilities and accountabilities for the implementation, establishment and maintenance of SSP and its performance;
- Conduct both performance-based and compliance-oriented activities, supported by analyses and prioritized resource allocation based on safety risks levels (proactively targeting regulatory attention on known areas of high risk);
- Ensure that acceptable levels of safety for aviation operations within the State are being set, measured and achieved, and expressed in terms of safety performance indicators and safety performance targets;
- Continually improve the SSP and safety performance;
- Interact effectively with service providers in the resolution of safety concerns;
- Ensure that operators and service providers establish and maintain the Safety Management System (SMS) in their operation;
- Establish provisions for the protection of safety data, collection and processing systems, so that people are encouraged to provide essential safety-related information on hazards, and there is a continuous flow and exchange of safety management data between DGCA and service providers; and
- Promulgate an enforcement policy that ensures that no information derived from any safety data, collection and processing systems, established under the SMS will be used as the basis for enforcement action, except in the case of gross negligence or wilful deviation; and
- Achieve the highest levels of safety standards and performance in aviation operations.

This policy must be understood, implemented and observed by all staff involved in activities related to the State Safety Programme.

*Director General
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