ABOUT US

ACI is a federated organization

| ACI **World** | ACI **Africa** | ACI **Asia-Pacific & Middle East** | ACI **Europe** | ACI **Latin America and the Caribbean** | ACI **North America** |

THE VOICE OF THE WORLD'S AIRPORTS

ACI World contributes to the

safety, security, and sustainability

of the global aviation industry by

Advancing the collective interests
of airports and the communities, they serve

Promoting excellence
in airport management and operations

Need for Aerodrome Certification

State

To discharge its overall responsibility under the Convention, legislation must be created and implemented to ensure adoption of ICAO Annexes. States empowers CAA to provide oversight and deliver certification based on established safety regulation of aerodromes

Airports

By achieving certification, aerodromes demonstrate they are meeting its obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions of the certificate.

It clearly demonstrates its ability to manage, operate, maintain, and safely grow its capacity while maintaining an acceptable level of risk within the parameters set by the regulation

The Legal Foundation of Aerodrome Certification

Building National Civil Aviation Regulation based on ICAO Annex 14 and other Annexes and Documents
- Civil Aviation Act
- Creation of SARPs

The Legal obligations for airports to operate in accordance with safety and regulatory compliance
- Continuous Legal commitment following achieving certification
- Obligation for continuously monitoring risk, action and performing its due diligence

Ensuring a chain of accountability
- State must always ensure regulatory oversight
- Airport Operator's responsibilities toward compliance and safety management – **can't delegate that responsibility**
- Service providers' need to operate under the certified environment

Non-compliance can lead to legal and reputational consequences
- potential suspension of the certificate and/or;
- legal exposure following an incident.

What does it imply?
Starting with Regs and the Aerodrome Manual

- States must implement through its oversight body, the CAA, a program that has the capacity to audit and monitor KPIs of the performance of all operators.

- State must develop a certification process which can grant such certificate,

- Airports must ensure that its Aerodrome Manual is approved, stating all info pertinent to the airport's localization, physical characteristics, and capacity to name a few.

- The Aerodrome Manual is the most important piece as it acts as the main document pertaining to certification, with all operational functionalities being explained and where CAA could base their expectations from.

- All areas of certification should be internally monitored, reviewed and audited through an effective Safety Management Systems program.

Areas of responsibilities

Aerodrome Manual

Aerodrome Works Safety

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)

Airside Driver and Vehicle Management

Apron Safety Management

Emergency Response

Foreign Object Damage/Debris (FOD) Management

Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Handling

Improvement of Aeronautical Information Publications

Low Visibility Procedure (LVP)

Management of Ground Handlers and other stakeholders

Markings, Signs and Lighting

Movement Area Access

Movement Area Maintenance

Obstacle Management

Removal of Disabled Aircraft

Runway Safety

Safety Management Systems (SMS)

Wildlife Hazard Management

Winter Operations

Operator's Role and Challenges

Operational compliance in a complex environment: Airports must coordinate multiple entities (airlines, ATC, ground handlers, security, maintenance) — each affecting certification compliance.

''certification defines not only what we must do operationally — but what we are legally accountable for every day''

Evolving infrastructure and continuous compliance: Certification isn't a one-time event; it must be maintained during construction, upgrades, or operational changes.

Identification of the Accountable Executive: the importance of setting clear internal authority lines

Balancing commercial growth and regulatory constraints: The legal implications of expanding infrastructure without compromising certification status.

- Risk Management
- Airport capacity
- Managing stakeholders' demands and keeping with industry trends

A Driver of Organizational Culture

Embedding compliance in daily operations: Certification goes beyond technical conformity — it requires institutionalizing safety culture.

Legal vs. operational compliance: Legal departments and Operations must collaborate — not just "paper compliance."

From compliance to continuous improvement: The importance of creating safety management systems that provides a framework for proactively identifying and mitigating risks.

- Understanding and managing your risks
- The importance of capturing data that will help understanding trends and how well you are performing

ACI Activities on certification

- Supported by ICAO, APEX in Safety has a network of over 500 experts around the world

- 165 safety reviews conducted worldwide

- Focus on all areas of certification

- Reports on gaps and vulnerabilities and provides recommendations and coaching

- ACI supports with the implementation of recommended practices to achieve certification

GLOBAL SAFETY NETWORK (GSN) DIPLOMA PROGRAM

ACI/ICAO Instructor led courses

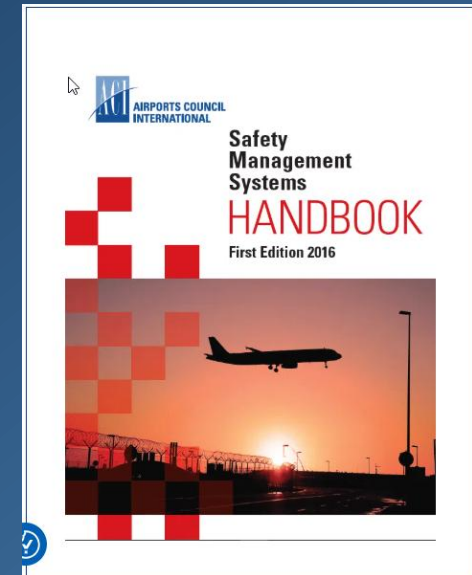GSN 1 - Safety Management Systems (SMS)

GSN 2 - Airside Safety and Operations

GSN 3 - Emergency Planning and Crisis Management

GSN 4 - Working with Annex 14

GSN 5 - Advanced Safety Management Systems

GSN 6 - Aerodrome Auditing and Compliance

Several handbooks and guidance material on certification and aerodrome safety

Regulatory Challenges ahead

Growing gaps: The loss of knowledge throughout the industry is impacting the understanding of accountability.

- **Privatization**
- **Rapid growth & demand**
- **New technology**
- **Loss of knowledgeable resources**

Climate and sustainability mandates: Integration of environmental compliance into aerodrome certification (e.g., runway surface management, wildlife hazard control, green infrastructure).

Cross-border implications: Mutual recognition of certification between States, especially for international airport groups.

THANK YOU