

Air Transport Facilitation Regulation Specialist

Department: Air Transport Department

Employment Type: Full-Time

About the Role

As a State Aviation Regulator, we seek an Air Transport Facilitation Regulation Specialist to bolster our regulatory oversight of air transport facilitation processes, ensuring efficient, secure, and compliant operations for passengers, crew, cargo, and aircraft across international borders. The ideal candidate is a seasoned aviation professional with in-depth expertise in local, national, and international facilitation regulations to streamline air travel, minimize delays, foster economic growth, and maintain high standards of safety, security, and public health. This role is essential in supporting our mission to promote sustainable and accessible international air transport and aligns closely with ICAO Annex 9 (Facilitation), the Chicago Convention, ICAO Doc 10042 (Model National Air Transport Facilitation Programme), ICAO Doc 9957 (Facilitation Manual), and global best practices for air transport regulation.

Key Responsibilities:

- Perform detailed inspections, audits, and surveillance of air transport facilitation activities including airlines, airports, ground handlers, customs, immigration, quarantine, and security authorities—to ensure adherence to local regulations, ICAO Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), ICAO Doc 9957, and ICAO Doc 10042, encompassing approvals for airline operating schedules, slots, and facilitation protocols.
- Monitor and assess passenger terminal building facilities to ensure they support efficient facilitation processes, including adequate space, signage, accessibility for persons with reduced mobility (PRM), separation facilities for inadmissible/deportee passengers, quarantine/health facilities, and sufficient infrastructure for border control agencies, in accordance with ICAO Annex 9 and related guidance material.
- Lead and engage in the negotiation, review, and implementation of international air transport agreements, bilateral/multilateral air service agreements (ASAs), and coordination with foreign civil aviation authorities, aligning with ICAO guidance on liberalization, fair competition, and facilitation under the Chicago Convention.
- Evaluate and process applications for airline schedule approvals, operating permits, cargo licenses, charter operations, and other aviation-related authorizations, reviewing documentation and procedures for passenger/crew clearance, cargo handling, advance passenger information (API), passenger name records (PNR), electronic machine-readable travel documents (eMRTDs), and health measures for compliance with ICAO Annex 9 and related documents like Doc 7300 (Chicago Convention) and Doc 10117 (Manual on Air Traffic Management System Requirements).
- Ensure all facilitation stakeholders are properly trained and compliant with standards; identify and report non-compliances in areas such as border control integration, accessible

facilities for PRM, sanitary measures, and efficient handling of inadmissible passengers or deportees.

- Inspect airport and border facilitation processes, including terminal facility adequacy and operational flow; collaborate with inter-agency partners (e.g., health, customs, agriculture) to address bottlenecks and promote best practices for reducing processing times, enhancing digital facilitation tools, and balancing security with efficiency, in accordance with ICAO's Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy and public health protocols.
- Maintain comprehensive records of facilitation applications, international agreements, inspections, audits, and compliance data; support the Director of Air Transport in compiling and presenting annual reports on facilitation performance, State differences filed under Article 38 of the Chicago Convention, and progress toward ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) and Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) objectives.
- Contribute to the formulation, update, and harmonization of national air transport regulations, policies, and procedures on facilitation, including the development or review of the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP) and establishment of a National Air Transport Facilitation Committee (NATFC), ensuring alignment with ICAO Annex 9 amendments, IATA guidelines, and international best practices.
- Undertake additional duties such as providing expert technical advice on facilitation issues, conducting training and capacity-building sessions for stakeholders, supporting public health integration in facilitation (e.g., during pandemics), and participating in ICAO regional facilitation seminars or working groups.

Essential Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Aviation Management, Air Transport, International Law, Public Administration, Economics, or a related field.
- Minimum 5 years' progressive experience in air transport regulation, facilitation, or international aviation operations, with at least 3 years in a regulatory oversight, compliance, or policy development role ideally within a civil aviation authority or government regulator.
- Demonstrated experience in negotiating international air service agreements, approving airline schedules and licenses, conducting facilitation audits, or implementing national facilitation programmes in line with ICAO standards.
- Sound knowledge of:
 - ICAO Annex 9 (Facilitation), including SARPs on entry/exit formalities, API/PNR systems, eMRTDs, health and quarantine measures, cargo facilitation, and assistance to aircraft accident victims.
 - National and international regulatory frameworks for air transport, including bilateral/multilateral agreements, economic regulation, and liberalization policies.
 - Procedures for airline slot allocation, cargo licensing, inter-agency coordination, risk-based facilitation approaches, and integration of digital technologies in border controls.

- Experience in investigating facilitation-related incidents, inefficiencies, or non-compliances and recommending corrective measures.
- Familiarity with ICAO's State Safety Programme (SSP), USOAP, USAP, and global facilitation frameworks, including the role of NATFP and NATFC.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Advanced degree (Master's or equivalent) in Air Transport, Aviation Medicine, Public Health, or International Relations.
- Certifications such as ICAO Training on Annex 9 Implementation, IATA Passenger Facilitation Management, or equivalent credentials in air transport economics, regulation, or facilitation.
- At least 7 years' experience in air transport facilitation, preferably in a government, international organization (e.g., ICAO, WTO), or multi-stakeholder environment involving policy development and compliance monitoring.
- Experience in facilitation risk assessments, stakeholder coordination for National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP) and National Air Transport Facilitation Committee (NATFC) establishment, analysis of air transport liberalization impacts, or integration of public health measures in aviation facilitation.
- Proven track record in providing technical training, capacity-building, or leading facilitation iPack teams for Annex 9 compliance.
- Approaches regulatory oversight with a risk-based, data-driven strategy, considering operational, economic, and health risk profiles of air transport entities.
- Critical analysis of complex regulatory and facilitation data to drive efficient, consistent outcomes.

Core Competencies:

- Strong grasp of facilitation risk management techniques, including process optimization, inter-agency collaboration, digital tool integration, and health risk assessments, with the ability to apply and continually enhance technical knowledge and skills in air transport regulation and facilitation operations.
- Capacity to evaluate multifaceted facilitation challenges (e.g., economic, security, health, environmental), analyze complex issues, weigh risks, and deliver informed, timely decisions based on evidence, while maintaining a balanced regulatory approach that supports industry growth and compliance.
- Outstanding communication skills to effectively convey and receive information via oral, written, and non-verbal channels, engaging diverse stakeholders such as airlines, government agencies, international partners, airport operators, and border control authorities.
- Comprehensive understanding of how air transport system components (e.g., economic regulation, facilitation processes, international agreements, digital systems) interconnect

and operate, with the ability to critically analyze information for consistent, desirable regulatory and facilitation outcomes.

- Independent and proactive identification and resolution of regulatory gaps, with precise attention to detail in approvals, reporting, and compliance verification; exhibits resilience under pressure, a forward-thinking attitude toward facilitation enhancements, and commitment to continuous learning.
- Adherence to elevated ethical standards, showcasing integrity, transparency, and fairness in all regulatory activities, guided by ICAO principles, the Chicago Convention, and international best practices for sustainable air transport development.