Chulinda L. I., Popov R. V.

L. I. Chulinda,
Candidate of Law, Associate Professor
ORCID ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3771-4854

R. V. Popov,
Candidate of Law
ORCID ID: https://orcid.org/0009-0004-3703-9002

FACILITATION CIVIL AVIATION FORMALITIES AS A STRATEGIC GOAL TO IMPROVE GLOBAL SECURITY

State University «Kyiv Aviation Institute»
Liubomyra Huzara Avenue, 1, 03058, Kyiv, Ukraine
E-mails: chulinda@ukr.net, roman.popov@npp.kai.edu.ua

*The purpose of the study is the effectiveness of ICAO measures to simplify standards and recommended practices, the need for their implementation in the national legislation of member states. It requires an analysis of the issues of civil aviation priorities regarding the protection of personal data, the collection and processing of the necessary information. **Research methods:** comparative and systematic methods were used, in particular, to clarify the essence and effectiveness of ICAO standards in Annex 9 «Facilitation of Formalities» in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. **Results:** it was found that the development of modern technologies contributes to the fact that most social and economic activities take place on the Internet, so privacy and protection of personal data are becoming increasingly important. The state's activities in the field of air transport include compliance with requirements related to the issuance of travel documents, information exchange and identification of high-risk travelers, security screening of people and cargo, and the fight against terrorism. **Discussion:** the ICAO Facilitation program provides Contracting States with the means to maximize the efficiency of border formalities, as well as to achieve and maintain a high level of security and effective law enforcement. Ensuring the reliability and timeliness of the implementation of civil aviation facilitation rules results in the recognition and implementation of generally recognized values enshrined in international civil aviation documents of universal and regional significance. In particular, such updating and expansion is taking place due to the implementation of international and European civil aviation standards into the legal system of Ukraine.*

Key words: civil aviation; security; ICAO; facilitation; implementation of international and European standards.

Problem statement and its relevance. The aviation safety system depends on the effective implementation of the ICAO Aviation Safety Standards in all Member States. The Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) establishes general requirements for civil aviation activities in international flights, proclaiming the principles and rules of flight, registration of aircraft and their documentation, investigation of air accidents, and the procedure for establishing technical standards [1]. Participation in the Convention contributes to the development and adoption of international standards in the field of civil aviation, which are annexes to the Chicago Convention (19 Annexes). To promote the development of a reliable and economically viable civil aviation system, reliable air transport rules are necessary. This improves air connectivity.

ICAO develops standards and recommendations for air transport regulation, covering policies on

charges and taxation, guidance on national, bilateral and multilateral regulation, market access, airline ownership and control, trade in services and economic oversight of airports. Annex 9 to the Chicago Convention contains standards directly related to the facilitation of ground clearance formalities for aircraft and passengers, cargo and mail, taking into account the requirements of customs, immigration, security and agricultural authorities. It thus provides a framework for managers of international airport operations, contains obligations, as well as minimum capabilities that should be provided by governments. In addition, Annex 9 defines methods and procedures for conducting clearance operations in a manner that takes into account the national legislation of States, while ensuring maximum efficiency for air transport operators, airports and State inspection authorities [2].

The standards and recommended practices of the Annex relate specifically to the facilitation of ground formalities for the clearance of aircraft and passengers, cargo and mail, taking into account the requirements of customs and immigration authorities. The system of requirements for managers of international airports is specified, as well as the information to be provided by governments of states. National air transport regulations should reflect and complement the requirements of the Annexes.

Countries must consider the requirements for effective regulation of travel documents and borders, information sharing and identification of high-risk passengers, screening of people and cargo for security purposes, global counter-terrorism goals, and many other interrelated priorities. Governments share a common strategic goal for international aviation, and they are constantly implementing new strategic plans to address the challenges through international partnerships.

International and European civil aviation organizations are developing recommendations on the facilitation of customs formalities in order to assist states in addressing international security issues, improving the environmental performance of aviation through international partnerships and supporting UN initiatives. The introduction of modern innovative technologies in civil aviation is an objective necessity, and ensuring the reliability and timeliness of information provision is an integral part of aviation safety. The information system is aimed at increasing the efficiency of civil aviation, competitiveness and coordination of all activities.

All entities of international civil aviation receive a huge amount of personal data of passengers. One airline can process tens of millions of data on passengers, cargo, technical condition of aviation equipment, therefore there is a need for measures to protect technical and personal data of customers. Aircraft, crews and passengers on board must be protected. Neglecting security measures results in not only reputational and financial losses, but sometimes even human casualties. Almost all the data used by an airline is related to the personal data of customers, employees and other individuals who provide services to the airline [3].

Analysis of research and publications on the problem. Since the issues of regulating safety problems occupy a special place among the important tasks of civil aviation, they are studied in the works of domestic and international scientists, which are important for achieving and maintaining aviation safety and the effective operation of state agencies. Research into international ICAO standards and ensuring aviation safety was directly or indirectly investigated by O. Butkevych, Yu. Voloshyn, I. Berezhnyuk, K. Konyukhova, A. Filippov, A. Nashinets-Naumova, M. Raskalei and others. The international legal principles governing relations in the field of civil aviation are described in the monograph by O. Grigorov. The global goals of sustainable development in the regional policy of Ukraine were analyzed by L. Gromozdova, M. Korolenko, and S. Bartosz. However, the issue of simplification of formalities under Article 14 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation requires further study.

Presentation of the main research material. The activities of ICAO member states include compliance with requirements related to the correct issuance of travel documents and border management, information exchange and identification of high-risk travelers, security screening of people and cargo, combating terrorism, and many others. Governments are constantly implementing innovative technologies through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Airline passengers provide their personal data online for various purposes,

which creates privacy risks. The boundless expanse of the Internet, by providing a free flow of information data, makes access to and exchange of information, in particular personal data, easier and faster than ever.

Governments are constantly introducing innovative technologies through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Airline passengers provide their personal data on the Internet for various purposes, which creates privacy risks. The boundless space of the Internet, ensuring the free flow of information data, makes access to information and the exchange of information, in particular personal data, easier and faster than ever. Air passengers provide their personal data online for various purposes, which creates privacy risks. The boundless space of the Internet, ensuring the free flow of information data, makes access to and exchange of information, including personal data, easier and faster than ever.

The basic rules of aviation data privacy are aimed at passenger safety, border protection against illegal transit and passenger health monitoring, and can help to enhance global health security. As more and more social and economic activities take place online, the privacy and protection of personal information is of increasing importance. The collection, use, and transfer of personal information to third parties without consumers' notice or consent is a serious security concern. Data privacy legislation is constantly evolving and improving around the world. A global analysis shows that 66% of countries currently have data privacy legislation, 10% are preparing legislation, 19% have no legislation, and 5% have not provided any data x [4].

ICAO international standards on data use should be consistent with the proposed rules. Given that the verification of travel documents is a common stage of international air travel, requiring specialized infrastructure and personnel, as well as time to process travel data, aviation activities take into account the need to simplify the document verification process, establish appropriate systems that meet tomorrow's challenges and security requirements.

Passengers and shippers want quality service, which means being able to move through airports with minimal delays and hassle. ICAO's mission in the facilitation program is to align all interests to create a more efficient, streamlined air transport. At the same time, aviation workers and users must contend with security threats, illegal migration, travel document fraud, illicit drug trafficking, and the spread of infectious diseases. These global threats and everyday realities are important to consider [5].

The ICAO Facilitation Programme (FAL) provides Contracting States with the means to maximize the efficiency of border formalities and to achieve and maintain a high level of security and effective law enforcement [6]. The objectives of the FAL program include promoting the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. ICAO Member States develop modern and innovative strategies to address problems such as airport congestion; reduce risks to aviation safety and national security through reliable identity management and border control methods; help detect and prevent terrorism and crime by preventing fraudulent use of identification documents; assist genuine travelers at the airport through automated check-in processes to increase throughput; reduce staff and training costs by standardizing and simplifying document verification processes; ensure interoperability and the use of standard technologies for identity management for both States and industry, resulting in efficient operations and reduced costs; increase States' confidence in their ability to verify that documents have been properly issued and have not been altered.

The implementation of the Global Plan is taking place through the formation of a culture and capacity building in the field of security, knowledge of new technologies, improvement of relevant control systems and quality assurance. The implementation of the IATA Travel Pass Traveler Identification Program [7] also helps to safely open borders for air passengers.

Back in 2003, the International Civil Aviation Organization adopted standards for machine-readable travel documents (eMRTD). This laid the foundation for building a widespread infrastructure for simplified document verification at the airport. Starting with Belgium (2004), governments of various countries have started issuing ICAO-compliant e-passports. The importance of e-passports lies in

the legality of their issuance by states, as well as the digital biometric and biographical information stored on the e-passport chip. This allows airports, airlines and inspection agencies to verify the authenticity of documents using automated border control tools [8].

In October 2020, ICAO published "Guiding Core Principles for the Development of a Digital Travel Credential (DTC)" [9]. Effective management of passenger data is a priority for government agencies, which is why they operate under passenger information exchange rules to better detect, investigate and prevent criminal activity.

The ICAO "Guiding Principles for the Development of Digital Travel Credentials" program is essential for improving digital identity, as a digital copy of the information in an e-passport provides a benchmark for the required credentials. The program regulates the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, and also contains protocols governing the processing of information by businesses that relates to the individuals with whom they interact. Effective management of passenger data is a priority for government agencies, which is why they operate under the rules for exchanging passenger information to better detect, investigate and prevent criminal activity.

Facilitation of civil aviation regulations as a strategic objective to enhance global security reflects the need for ICAO's recommended practices for aviation security and related border security issues. The ICAO Facilitation (FAL) Programme primarily addresses the diverse but interrelated interests of Member States, aircraft and airport operators, and customers in a coordinated manner, while working towards achieving more efficient and orderly air transport.

Prioritizing compliance with global and safe rules for the development of air transport, the ICAO Council adopted the Global Aviation Security Plan to improve international cooperation, response and planning to counter threats to passengers, cargo, aircraft and civil aviation facilities [10].

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Trusted by banks, fintech companies, crypto platforms, and gaming companies, privacy-preserving biometric authentication reduces account hijacking, protects high-risk activities, and improves operational efficiency. Passengers are increasingly willing to use these IDs, with 75% of travelers indicating that they are comfortable keeping their passport on their phone and 73% not averse to sharing digital IDs and biometrics before traveling. Younger travelers in particular are showing a greater preference for the technology, with over 90% of those aged 18-44 finding DTCs useful. This acceptance extends to their willingness to pay for DTC-related services, with 62% of passengers interested in paying for services that issue DTCs and 26% saying they would be "very interested" [11].

This proposal by ICAO experts has been widely recognized for its potential to improve convenience and security, but it also has significant challenges. Interoperability between different countries, carriers and airport systems presents complex obstacles. Digital rights organizations have raised concerns about the use of facial recognition, potential surveillance and the risk of exclusion for those without compatible technology or identity documents. Biometric systems require regulatory regulation.

The ICAO Facilitation Conference (2025) in Qatar adopted the Declaration on Facilitation of International Air Transport, setting the stage for the transformation of global air transport as the industry prepares for unprecedented growth [12]. Experts demonstrated how biometric technologies and digital travel IDs are improving passenger data processing. Industry leaders proposed solutions to reduce travel times to 45 minutes with contactless technology. Ratification of the Montreal Convention (1999) and the Montreal Protocol (2014) is essential, as they provide a fundamental legal frame-

work to address key simplification issues, including passenger compensation and the management of incidents involving unruly passengers.

The conference outcomes will form the basis for discussions at the 42nd ICAO Assembly in Montreal this September, where all 193 Member States will gather to adopt binding resolutions on the strategic development of international civil aviation.

Airlines are taking additional measures to ensure the security of personal data, which are directly related to cybersecurity. There have been changes in the organizational structure of airlines, a data protection officer has appeared, the main purpose of which is to ensure the performance of functions for regulatory and organizational support of business processes related to the processing and protection of personal data [13].

One trend is the increasing reliance on digital and mobile technologies throughout the passenger and cargo journey. Biometric technologies can solve problems such as "long lines" and "delays" as all air passengers would like to reduce waiting times at the airport.

There are many benefits to standardizing and harmonizing travel documents, and passengers should be informed about the personal data requirements for identification while traveling.

Conclusions. Joint efforts of international and European aviation organizations have resulted in the development of universal standards that provide for significant improvements in the facilitation system of civil aviation formalities. Ensuring the reliability and timeliness of the implementation of the latest technologies, as well as new regulations in the field of personal data protection, has resulted in the recognition and implementation of generally recognized values enshrined in international documents. n particular, such an update is taking place due to the implementation of international and European civil aviation standards into the legal system of Ukraine. International partnership between all areas of aviation activity, such as airports, airlines, air traffic control, production and supply, stimulates the development of international civil aviation.

Therefore, Ukraine's inclusion in global efforts to develop innovative technologies to improve the standards of Annex 9 "Facilitation of Formalities" in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention on

International Civil Aviation allows for an increase in the level of aviation security; to strengthen national security and border security; prevent acts of terrorism; protect the health of passengers; improve border control at airports; to facilitate and ensure safe conditions for the use of air transport.

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Людмила Чулінда, Роман Попов

СПРОЩЕННЯ ФОРМАЛЬНОСТЕЙ ЦИВІЛЬНОЇ АВІАЦІЇ ЯК СТРАТЕГІЧНА ЦІЛЬ ПІДВИЩЕННЯ ГЛОБАЛЬНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ

Державний університет «Київський авіаційний інститут»
проспект Любомира Гузара, 1, 03058, Київ, Україна
E-mails: chulinda@ukr.net, roman.popov@npp.kai.edu.ua

Метою дослідження є ефективність заходів ICAO щодо спрощення стандартів та рекомендованої практики, необхідності їх імплементації у національне законодавство держав-членів. Потребує аналізу питання пріоритетів цивільної авіації щодо захисту персональних даних, збір та обробка необхідної інформації. ***Методи дослідження:*** *використано, зокрема, порівняльний та системний методи для з'ясування суті та ефективності стандартів ICAO у Додатку 9 «Спрощення формальностей» відповідно до статті 14 Конвенції про міжнародну цивільну авіацію.* ***Результати:*** *встановлено, що розвиток сучасних технологій сприяє тому, що більшість соціальної та економічної діяльності відбувається в Інтернеті, тому конфіденційність і захист персональних даних стають все більш важливими. Діяльність держави у сфері використання авіаційного транспорту передбачає дотримання вимог, що пов'язані з оформленням проїзних документів, обміном інформацією та ідентифікацією мандрівників із високим ризиком, перевіркою людей і вантажу з метою безпеки, боротьбу з тероризмом.* ***Обговорення:*** *програма ICAO Facilitation надає Договірним державам засоби максимального підвищення ефективності формальностей проходження кордону, а також досягнення та підтримання високого рівня безпеки та ефективної правоохоронної діяльності. Забезпечення надійності та своєчасності впровадження правил спрощення формальностей цивільної авіації має наслідком визнання і впровадження загальновизнаних цінностей, закріплених у міжнародних документах цивільної авіації універсального та регіонального значення. Зокрема, таке оновлення і розширення відбувається завдяки імплементації міжнародних та європейських стандартів цивільної авіації у правову систему України.*

Ключові слова: цивільна авіація; безпека; ICAO; спрощення формальностей; імплементація міжнародних та європейських стандартів.