

DUTCH SAFETY BOARD

Legal framework – EU and International context

Dutch Safety Board

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16 November 2022



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- Accident Investigation Legal Framework
- Obligation to investigate
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- Balancing test



Art. 26 Chicago Convention

ICAO Annex 13

Regulation (EU) 996/2010

Article 26 Chicago Convention

Doc 7300/9



Obligation to investigate:

"In the event of an **accident to an aircraft** of a contracting State occurring in the territory of another contracting State, and involving death or serious injury, or indicating serious **technical defect** in the aircraft or air navigation facilities, the State in which the accident occurs will institute an **inquiry** into the circumstances of the accident, in accordance, so far as its laws permit, with **the procedure** which may be recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization."

Standards and Recommended Practices>>>>Annex 13

Convention on International Civil Aviation

Convention relative à l'aviation civile internationale

Convenio sobre Aviación Civil Internacional

Конвенция о международной гражданской авиации

> his document supersedes Doc 7300/8. le présent document annule et remplace le Doc 7300/8. ste documento remplaza el Doc 7300/8. łастоящий документ заменяет Doc 7300/8.

Ninth Edition - Neuvième édition - Novena edición - Издание довятое — 2006

International Civil Aviation Organization
Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale
Organización de Aviación Civil Internacional
Международная организация гражданской авиации



Annex 13



International Standards and Recommended Practices

Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation

Twelfth Edition, July 2020



This edition supersedes, on 5 November 2020, all previous editions of Annex 13.

For information regarding the applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices, see Chapter 2 and the Foreword.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

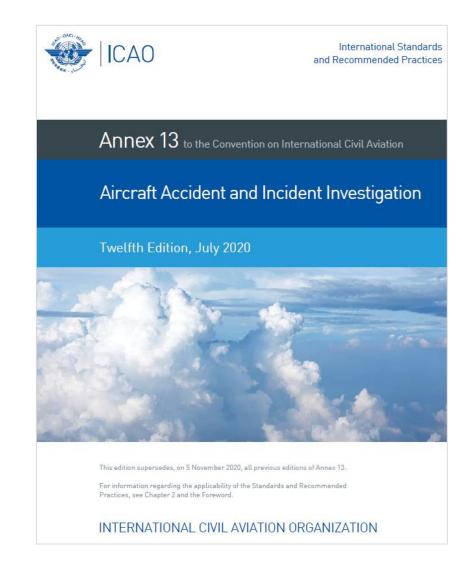


INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



Annex 13 – key features

- Objective of investigation
- Independency of investigation
- Access and protection of evidence and wreckage
- Responsibility State of Occurrence
- Notification obligations
- Responsibility for instituting and conducting an investigation
- Coordination with judicial authorities
- Participation in the investigation
- Final report





Regulation (EU) 996/2010 on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents

Consolidated version: 11/09/2018

as latest amended by the new EASA Basic Regulation (EU) 2018/1139.

Implementing Annex 13 (but there are gaps and differences!!)

Superseding national regulations.

12.11.2010 Official Journal of the European Union L 295/35 REGULATION (EU) No 996/2010 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 October 2010 on the investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation and repealing Directive 94/56/EC (Text with EEA relevance) THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE bring forward a proposal to revise Directive 2003/42/EC EUROPEAN UNION of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2003 on occurrence reporting in civil aviation (4) before 31 December 2011. Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in particular Article 100(2) thereof, The sole objective of safety investigations should be the prevention of future accidents and incidents without Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission, apportioning blame or liability. Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Account should be taken of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed in Chicago on 7 December 1944 (the Chicago Convention), which provides for the implementation of the measures After consulting the Committee of the Regions, necessary to ensure the safe operation of aircraft. Particular account should be taken of Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention and of its subsequent amendments, which lav down international standards and recom-Having regard to the opinion of the European Data Protection mended practices for aircraft accident and incident investigation, as well as the understanding of the terms of State of Registry, State of the Operator, State of Design, State of Manufacture and State of Occurrence used therein Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure (3), Whereas According to the international standards and recommended practices set out in Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention, the investigation of accidents and serious incidents is to be conducted under the responsibility of (1) A high general level of safety should be ensured in civil the State where the accident or serious incident occurs. aviation in Europe and all efforts should be made to or the State of Registry when the location of the accident reduce the number of accidents and incidents to ensure or serious incident cannot definitely be established as public confidence in air transport. being in the territory of any State. A State may delegate the task of conducting the investigation to another State or request its assistance. Safety investigations in the Union should be conducted in a similar (2) The expeditious holding of safety investigations of civil aviation accidents and incidents improves aviation safety and helps to prevent the occurrence of accidents and incidents. The lessons learned from the implementation of Council Directive 94/56/EC of 21 November 1994 establishing

the fundamental principles governing the investigation of

civil aviation accidents and incidents (5) should be used to

improve the efficiency of the investigation and

Reporting, analysis, and dissemination of findings of

safety related incidents are fundamentally important to

improving air safety. Therefore the Commission should



Regulation (EU) 996/2010

Scope (art. 3): Investigations into accidents and serious incidents

- a) occurred in **territory** EU Member State;
- b) involving an aircraft registered or operator established in EU Member State;
- c) Member States entitled to appoint an **accredited representative** (accrep):
 - State of Registry
 - State of Operator
 - State of Design
 - State of Manufacturer
 - State providing information/facilities or experts
- d) Member States having suffered **fatalities** or **serious injuries** to its <u>citizens</u> and which is permitted by State conducting the investigation to appoint an **expert**.

(EU) 996/2010 is <u>not</u> applicable to *State aircraft* operations, unless applicability is established by national law (art. 3(3)).



Who is obliged to investigate?

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State of Occurrence (art. 26 CC and Std. 5.1 Annex 13)

- Institute and responsible for the conduct of an investigation
- Delegate whole or any part of investigation to another State or a regional accident and incident investigation organization (RAIO)
- Obligation to investigate all
 - accidents
 - serious incidents with aircraft of a maximum certified take-off of over 2 250 kg.

What about unmanned aircraft?





Obligation to investigate

Art. 5 Regulation (EU) 996/2010

Every accident or serious incident involving aircraft falling under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2018/1138 shall be subject to an investigation in the MS where it occurred.

- Unless there are persons fatal or serious injured, and taking into account the lessons to be drawn, no obligation to investigate accidents or serious incidents involving:
 - Uncertified unmanned aircraft
 - Aircraft ≤ 2250 kg

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Definitions accident, serious incident, incident

• Accident:

Occurrence associated with the operation of aircraft whereby

- a. a person is fatally or seriously injured;
- b. aircraft sustained (substantial) damage or structural failure;
- c. aircraft is missing.

Serious incident:

High probability of an accident occurring.

List of examples>>>> attachment C (Annex 13) or Annex (EU 996/2010)

Incident:

Occurrence, other than accident, associated with the operation of aircraft that affects or could affect flight safety.





Objective of the investigation

Annex 13 to the Convention on International Cool Aviation Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (E) (66/2) and of the Imputation (E) (66/2) and (66/2) and (66/2) and (66/2) (E) (66/2) and (66/2)

Enhancing flight safety

Std 3.1 Annex 13:

"The sole objective of the investigation of an accident or incident shall be the prevention of accidents and incidents. It is **not** the purpose of this activity to **apportion blame or liability**."

Art. 5(6) Regulation (EU) 996/2010:

Safety investigations referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 shall in **no case** be concerned with **apportioning blame or liability**. They shall be independent of, separate from and without prejudice to any judicial or administrative proceedings to apportion blame or liability.



Accident Investigation Authority / Safety Investigation Authority

Std. 3.2 Annex 13

A State shall establish an *accident investigation authority* that is **independent** from State aviation authorities and other entities that could interfere with the conduct or objectivity of an investigation.

Article 4 (1) Regulation (EU) 996/2010

1. Each Member State shall ensure that safety investigations are conducted or supervised, without external interference, by a permanent national civil aviation safety investigation authority (safety investigation authority) capable of independently conducting a full safety investigation, either on its own or through agreements with other safety investigation authorities.





Participation in the investigation

State of Occurrence	Conducting the investigation –
	Investigator In Charge (IIC)

State of Registry	Participating in the investigation Accredited Representative (accrep) + advisers
State of Operator	Idem
State of Manufacture	Idem
State of Design	Idem
State providing requested information	Idem

States having suffered fatalities or serious	Limited participation - Expert	
injuries to their citizens		

ICAO

International Standards and Recommended Practices

Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation

Twelfth Edition, July 2020

The affirm approach, and Standards approximate affirms of Annex 13.

For affirmation regarding and applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices, and Capping of and for formance.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



Entitlements IIC (and accreps, experts and advisers)

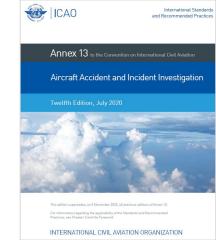
- Immediate unrestricted and unhampered access to the site of the accident or incident, its content or wreckage;
- Immediate listing of evidence and controlled removal of debris, or components for examination or analysis purposes;
- Immediate access to and control over flights recorders, their contents and any other relevant recordings;
- Request, and contribute to, a complete autopsy and have immediate access to the results;
- Request medical examination of people involved in the operation of the aircraft or request test to be carried
 out and have immediate access to results;
- Interview witnesses and require them to provide information or evidence relevant for the investigation;
- Free access to relevant information or records held by the owner, certificate holder, training organisation, operator, manufacturer, CAA, EASA, ANSP's or Aerodrome operators.

art. 11 Regulation (EU) 996/2010

St. 5.6 to 5.9.1 and 5.25 of Annex 13



Coordination of investigation – judicial authorities



Std 5.4.1

"Any investigation conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Annex shall be separate from any judicial or administrative proceedings to apportion blame or liability."

Note.— Separation can be achieved by the investigation being conducted by State accident investigation authority experts, and any judicial or administrative proceedings being conducted by other appropriate experts. Coordination, as per 5.10, between the two processes would likely be required at the accident site and in the gathering of factual information, with due consideration to the provisions in 5.12.

Std. 5.10

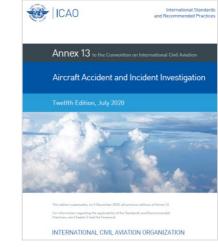
5.10 The State conducting the investigation shall recognize the need for **coordination** between the **investigator-in-charge** and the **judicial authorities**. Particular attention shall be given to evidence which requires prompt recording and analysis for the investigation to be successful, such as the examination and identification of victims and read-outs of flight recorder recordings.



Access to the wreckage

Std. 5.6 Annex 13

The investigator-in-charge shall have **unhampered access** to the **wreckage** and all relevant material, including flight recorders and ATS records, and **shall have unrestricted control over it** to ensure that a detailed examination can be made without delay by authorized personnel participating in the investigation.





Coordination of investigations – art. 12 (1) Reg. (EU) 996/2010

- Notification to IIC of judicial investigation;
- IIC to ensure traceability and to retain custody of flight recorders and any physical evidence;
- Appointment of a judicial official to accompany evidence to read-out or treatment;
- Agreement on destructive examination (national law to be respected),
 within time limits
- IIC has immediate and unrestricted access to evidence seized by judicial authorities.

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Coordination of investigations – art. 12 (2) Reg. (EU) 996/2010

- IIC informs competent authorities in case of (suspicion of) unlawful act.
- Relevant information must be shared, in accordance with art. 14 provisions (confidentiality of safety information);

Question: can this notification obligation impede future safety investigations?



Coordination of investigations – art. 12 (3) Reg. (EU) 996/2010

Advanced arrangements between SIA and judicial/civil aviation/search and rescue authorities on:

- access to the site;
- preservation of and access to evidence;
- Initial and ongoing debriefings of status of each process;
- exchange of information;
- appropriate use of safety information;
- resolution of conflicts.

Arrangements to be transmitted by the EC to the Chairperson of ENCASIA, European Parliament and the Council.



Protection of investigation information - art. 13 Reg. (EU) 996/2010

- MS of occurrence responsible for
 - Safe treatment of all evidence
 - Measures to protect and preserve evidence
 - Maintaining safe custody of the aircraft/contents/wreckage

- Pending arrival SIA, no person shall
 - modify accident site
 - take samples
 - move (any part of) the aircraft/wreckage

without express consent of the authorities in control, in consultation with SIA.



Protection of investigation information - art. 14 (1) Reg. (EU) 996/2010

Not to be made available or used for other purposes than safety investigation:

- statements (taken by SIA);
- records revealing identity of persons providing evidence for safety investigation;
- medical or other sensitive personal information, collected by SIA;
- material produced by the SIA, such as analysis and opinions;
- information and evidence provided to SIA by investigators from other MS or third countries;
- drafts of preliminary or final reports or interim statements;
- CVR, image recordings, or ATC recordings, and their transcripts.

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Protection of investigation information - art. 14 (2) Reg. (EU) 996/2010

Not to be made available or used for other purposes than safety investigation or other purposes aiming at improving aviation safety:

- all communications between persons involved in operation of an aircraft;
- written or electronic recordings and transcriptions of ATC units, including reports and results for internal purposes;
- covering letters for transmission of safety recommendations, if so requested by SIA;
- occurrences reports filed under the previous Directive 2003/42/EC on occurrence reporting (replaced by Regulation (EU)376/2014).

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Protection of investigation information - art. 14 (3) Reg. (EU) 996/2010

Records mentioned in art. 14 paragraph 1 and 2 **not to be made available** or **used** for other purposes **unless**:

- administration of justice or competent authority decides,
- in accordance with national law,
- that benefits of disclosure outweighs the adverse impact on future safety investigations.

12.11.2000 IN Official journal of the Integrate Union L 291/0

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(Test with EEA relevance)

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PI OLI 167, 47,000, p. 21, PI OLI 168, 1212,1994, p. 14.



Protection of investigation information – Std. 5.12 Annex 13

The State conducting the investigation shall not make the following records available, unless the **designated competent authority** determines, in accordance with national law and subject to Apendix 2 and 5.12.5, that their **disclosure** or use outweighs the likely **adverse domestic** and **international impact** such action may have on that or any future investigations

- a) CVR and AIR and any transcripts thereof;
- b) Records in the custody or control of the accident investigation authority being:
 - 1. statements taken by accident investigation authority;
 - 2. all communications between persons involved in the operation of an aircraft;
 - 3. medical or private information of persons involved;
 - 4. ATC recordings and transcripts;
 - 5. analysis and opinions of the accident investigation authority and accreps;
 - 6. draft Final Report.





Balancing test – Annex 13, Appendix 2



 Assist States developing national laws, regulations and policies to protect accident and incident investigation records.

Assist the competent authority making the determination to disclose or not.

States shall designate one or more competent authorities.



Balancing test – Annex 13, Appendix 2

- Request for disclosure or use in criminal, civil, administrative or disciplinary proceeding
 > first determine if a material fact cannot be determined without that record.
- Take into consideration:
 - a) purpose for which record was created or generated;
 - b) requesters' intended use of the record;
 - c) any adverse affects for rights or interest of other persons/organisations;
 - d) consent of the person or organisation to whom that record relates;
 - e) are suitable safeguards in place to limit further disclosure or use?
 - f) as or can the record be de-identified, summarized or aggregated?
 - g) is there an urgent need to access that record?
 - h) is the record of sensitive or restrictive nature?
 - i) can the record indicate that the accident or incident may have been caused by gross negligence, wilful misconduct or with criminal intent?



Balancing test – Annex 13, Appendix 2

ICAC

Category of records: possibility of administering the balancing test once, and

<u>incorporate</u> in <u>national laws</u> and <u>regulations</u>.

Recomm: record the reasons behind the decisions.

Guidance material: Doc 10053.

 Recomm: prevent the use of final report as evidence in proceedings to apportion blame or liability.



Approved by and published under the authority of the Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

 Recomm: investigators not to be compelled to give an opinion on matters of blame or liability in civil/criminal/administrative/disciplinary proceedings.







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