

AERODROME CERTIFICATION IN CHINA

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 By the end of 2017, there are 229 transportation aerodromes in mainland of China, of which 46 aerodromes operate in accordance with special standards due to topographic conditions, environmental constraints and higher altitude. The continuous rapid growth of air traffic and the number of aerodromes has brought great pressure and challenges to China's aerodrome safety management.

1.2 After years of practice, we believe that certification and related supervision of the aerodrome is a significant and effective means of administration.

1.3 The certification procedure of Chinese aerodromes includes the application of aerodrome management institution, acceptance, examination and approval by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), as well as alteration and cancellation, etc. Only qualified aerodromes can be certificated and open to use, and can only operate within the permitted scope.

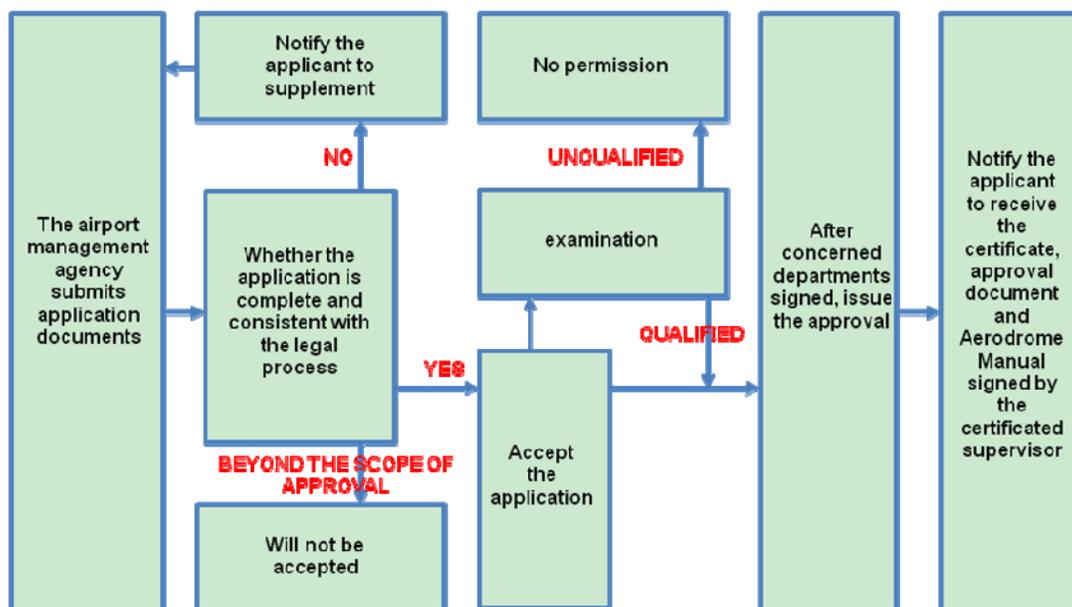
1.4 CAAC has also developed a closed-loop management by conducting continuous inspections to ensure the safe operation and normal use of the aerodrome.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Procedure of Certification

2.1.1 In accordance with the Civil aviation law of the People's Republic of China, Administrative certificate law of the People's Republic of China, Regulations on aerodrome management, Provisions on aerodrome certification, etc., the aerodrome certificating system in China is implemented uniformly.

2.1.2 Aerodrome certification management shall follow the principles of safety first, conditions satisfactorily, examination strictly and procedures conformably. The following is the basic procedure of applying for the certificate of an aerodrome.



2.1.3 Application

The aerodrome management agencies shall file an application with the CAAC or its regional administrations in accordance with the prescribed conditions and procedures. Aerodrome management agencies refer to legal entities established according to law or entrusted to be responsible for aerodrome safety and operation.

2.1.4 Conditions

2.1.5 To apply for the certificate, the aerodrome should first comply with the basic conditions specified in "the Provisions on Aerodrome Certification", and prepare the Application Form, documentary evidence, Aerodrome Manual and other relevant documents.

2.1.6 Basic conditions:

- a) Sound safety operation management system, organization and management system;
- b) Main management personnel have corresponding qualifications and conditions;
- c) It has available a designated movement area, terminal area, working area, as well as facilities, equipment and personnel corresponding to its operation;
- d) Facilities, equipment and personnel for air traffic services, aviation intelligence, communications, navigation, surveillance, aviation weather, etc. can guarantee flight safety;
- e) Approved for use of airspace, flight procedures and minimum standards of aerodrome operation;
- f) The safety protection facilities, equipment, personnel and civil aviation security schemes in compliance with regulations;
- g) The aerodrome emergency response plan, emergency rescue facilities, equipment and personnel in compliance with regulations;
- h) The aerodrome name has been filed with CAAC.

2.1.7 Aerodrome Manual:

2.1.8 Aerodrome Manual is the fundamental basis for aerodrome operation.

2.1.9 The Aerodrome Manual shall be prepared by the aerodrome management agency, and its contents shall meet the requirements of "the Provisions on Aerodrome Certification". During the compilation process, the opinions of users in aerodrome should be widely solicited to ensure the operability and practicability, and to meet the needs of aerodrome operation and management.

2.1.10 Upon completion, the Manual should be submitted to the CAAC or its regional administration together with the application for certificate, and then become effective together with the certificate.

2.1.11 The manual shall be in the form of loose-leaf, with blank pages for modification and recording of aerodrome certificate alteration.

2.1.12 Examination

2.1.13 The CAAC or its regional administrations shall, upon receipt of the materials submitted by the aerodrome management agencies for applying aerodrome certificate, carry out examination in accordance with the relevant requirements of "the Provisions on Aerodrome Certification", mainly including:

- a) Verify the authenticity and integrity of the documents;
- b) Review the conformity of the format and content of the Aerodrome Manual with relevant regulations and standards;
- c) Check whether the aerodrome facilities, equipment, personnel and management system are consistent with the submitted documents.

2.1.14 During the examination process, CAAC conducted comprehensive and in-depth inspection of construction structures, personnel, management system, facilities and equipment of the aerodrome through auditing documents, on-site review and third-party inspection.

2.1.15 Approval

2.1.16 Upon examination, if the application is deemed qualified, the CAAC or its regional administration shall approve and send in the certificate, approval document and Aerodrome Manual signed by the certificated supervisor to the aerodrome management agency.

2.1.17 The certificate for aerodrome is a document issued by the civil aviation administration of China (CAAC) or its regional administration, which is printed and numbered by CAAC.



Sample of aerodrome certificate

2.1.18 The aerodrome management agency which has obtained the certificate for the use of aerodromes shall, in accordance with the relevant provisions of CAAC, provide the information of the aerodrome to the department of navigation intelligence services for publication.

2.2 Alteration

2.2.1 If related changes mentioned in "the Provisions on Aerodrome Certification" happened, such as the change of the aerodrome name, the aerodrome management agency, legal representative, the airfield index, visual navigation condition, runway operation type and model, pavement grade, etc., the aerodrome shall change its certificate, only the altered parts should be reported.

2.3 Cancellation

2.3.1 In the event that the aerodrome would close for more than one year or no longer operate, or the aerodrome management agency terminates, or the aerodrome certificate cannot be implemented due to force majeure, the CAAC or its regional administration shall cancel the certificate of the aerodrome.

2.3.2 The aerodrome management agency should inform the closure of aerodrome to navigation intelligence service agency, which will publish notice to navigator. And from the day of closure, the aerodrome management agency should remove the aerodrome identification signs, wind cone, etc., and set the runway, taxiway closure signs.

2.4 Closed-loop Management

2.4.1 CAAC and its regional administrations are always conducting a sustainable management on certificated aerodromes, organize the applicability inspection annually and conformity assessment every five years, to ensure the facilities, equipment, personnel, management system, etc. conforming to the certificate and meeting the safe operation requirements.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) urge States/Administrations to establish applicable aerodrome certification system. China would like to share related practices and experience with other states.
- b) prepare relevant guidance materials for aerodrome certification, so as to provide guidance and reference for Member States.

— END —