WHO Procedures for Airport and Port Certification
WHO Procedures for Airport and Port Certification

- Legal background
- Technical references
- Certification work flow
- General feedback from draft review
IHR Art 20. Airports and Ports

4. WHO may, at the request of the State Party concerned, arrange to certify, after an appropriate investigation, that an airport or port in its territory meets the requirements referred to in paragraph 1 and 3 of this article. These certification may be subject to periodic review by WHO, in consultation with State Party.

5. WHO, in collaboration with competent intergovernmental organizations and international bodies, shall develop and publish the certification guidelines for airports and ports under this Article. WHO shall also publish a list of certified airports and ports.
WHO CERTIFICATION
AIRPORTS AND PORTS - IHR(2005)

- FOR AIRPORTS AND PORTS, AS INDICATED IN IHR(2005)
- NOT FOR ALL AIRPORTS AND PORTS: Applies only to airports and ports designated by State Parties to develop core capacities for public health under IHR(2005)
- NOT AN OBLIGATION: Under request of State Party, WHO may arrange to certify an airport or port
- WHO SHALL PUBLISH LIST OF CERTIFIED AIRPORTS AND PORTS
- WHO SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION
- The certification aims to verify specific core capacities under IHR Annex 1 (Health surveillance and response for activities related to PoE, at all times and to respond to events that may constitute a PHEIC) and for issuance of ship sanitation certificates.
1. Strengthen national disease surveillance, prevention, control and response systems

2. Strengthen public health security in travel and transport

• Timeline

2 years + 3 + (2) + (up to 2)


Airport and Port Certification to be pursued, on the voluntary basis, by the countries who already have the capacities in place and functioning
Basis for Certification

- Assessment tool provided to support State Parties during core capacity assessment at designated airports, ports and ground crossings at who.int/ihr/ports_airports/PoE/en/ww

- Administrative procedures and technical guidance build on assessment tools
WHO Airport and Port Certification--- What

What to be certified?

Routine times

(a) Assessment and Medical care, staff & equipment
(b) Equipment & personnel for transport
(c) Trained personnel for inspection of conveyances
(d) Ensure safe environment: water, food, waste, wash rooms & other potential risk areas - inspection programmes
(e) Trained staff and programme for vector control

Public Health Emergency

Provide assessment & care for affected travellers, animals: arrangements with medical, veterinary facilities for isolation, treatment & other services
Provide space, separate from other travellers to interview suspect or affected persons
Provide assessment, quarantine of suspect or affected travellers
Provide access to required equipment, personnel with protection gear for transfer of travellers with infection/contamination
To apply entry/exit control for departing & arriving passengers
To apply recommended measures, disinfect, decontaminate, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, postal parcels etc

International Health Regulations
World Health Organization
Technical References

Air travel

- Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation
- Guidelines for Prevention and Control of Swine Influenza in Air Transport
- Environmental Health Criteria 241: Aircraft Disinsection of Insecticide
- International Health Regulations (2005)

Ports and Ships

- Handbook for Inspection of Ships and Issuance of Ship Sanitation Certificates
- International Medical Guide for Ships
- Guide to Ship Sanitation
- WHO Learning Program for Ship Inspection and Issuance of SSC under IHR 2005

Public health emergency preparedness

- PoE core capacity checklist
- International Health Regulations (2005)
- Assessment tool for core capacity requirements of designated airports, ports and ground handling
Technical References

Event management

WHO Technical Advice for Event Management in Air Transport

WHO Technical Advice for Event Management on board ships

Others

Surveillance at points of entry

Procedures for Airport and Port Certification

Vector

Aircraft disinsection – chemical safety

Vector Surveillance and Control at PoE

PoE Vector Identification Platform
Proposed Procedures – 5 Stages

**STAGE ONE**
- Preconsultation with WHO

**STAGE TWO**
- State Party submits official request for certification, with documentation of self-assessment.
- WHO reviews request, acknowledges receipt and responds

**STAGE THREE**
- Certification committee assembles
- Initial documentation Review
- WHO informs results of document review

**STAGE FOUR**
- State Party and WHO agree on preceding to onsite verification
- Planning for onsite verification visit - Terms of Reference
- Onsite verification visit
- Team drafts and submits assessment report

**STAGE FIVE**
- WHO evaluates team onsite verification report and recommendation
- Certification recommendation by WHO
- Publication of certification
Stage One- Preconsultation

- Informal discussions between National authorities and WHO
- No commitment to proceed but information exchange
Stage Two – Official Request

- State Party submits official request for certification
- WHO confirms receipt of request
- National authority should have completed core capacity assessment and believe capacities are sufficiently developed
- Documentation file must accompany official request
Stage Three – Documentation Review

- WHO assembles certification team
- Certification team reviews documentation submitted with request
- There may be exchange between State Party and certification team to request additional documentation
- Documentation review report provided to State Party
Stage Four – Onsite Verification

- Terms of Reference for onsite verification to be developed by WHO in agreement with State Party
- Planning for onsite verification
- Onsite verification including observation of core capacities, additional documentation review, interviews with key stakeholders
- Preliminary and final reports confirming findings and results of onsite verification provided to State Party
Stage Five – WHO Evaluation and Certification

- WHO HQ evaluates Certification team’s onsite verification report and findings.
- If, in opinion of WHO HQ, airport and port has met core capacity requirements, recommendation for certification to be forwarded to Director/Assistant Director.
- Certification awarded, to be valid for period of ? Years.
Publishing and Periodic Review

**Publishing**
- WHO will publish the names of Certified Airports and ports

**Periodic Review**
- Certification will be valid for set number of years.
- State Party may request renewal of certification upon expiry
- At any time, State Party may request re-certification if airport operations have changed significantly
Resources and collaboration required

Collaboration with Air Transport sector and Maritime sector to finalize procedures

Pool of experts for assessment team and training plan / resources

Support of WHO Regional and Country offices, National authorities and Points of Entry

International Health Regulations
General Feedback

- Clarification of applicant (i.e. State, PoE)
- Cost to States as potential barrier
- Additional documents may be required for review
- Team members: expectations of teams, subject matter expertise, language requirements, training
Thank you!