

**AGA Certification Workshop**  
**Midrand, South Africa**  
**16-20 January 2023**

**Press Release**

The Interim SADC Aviation Safety Organisation organized a training workshop for Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) Inspectors from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in Midrand, South Africa which was attended by participants from 11 SADC member States. The workshop was hosted by the South African Civil Aviation Authority and facilitated by the ICAO-ESAF Regional office.

The objective of the training was to equip AGA inspectors from the region with the knowledge and right skills to conduct aerodrome certifications, understand ICAO AGA requirements and to appreciate the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA) system.

In the SADC region, the AGA domain has the lowest Effective Implementation (EI) among the 7 safety related audit areas. The low EI performance is further compounded by the absence of a conventional Government Safety Inspector course in AGA. ICAO also noted that even though many aerodromes in the region are listed as international airports, very few have been fully certified; of which certification of international airports is a key component in AGA compliance levels.

Representatives from participating states presented case studies which highlighted the challenges that they experience and strategies that they implemented to manage compliance with ICAO SARPs. Angola described their journey and experience to certify the Luanda Airport as well as how the state prepared for the ICAO USOAP CMA Audit which took place in November-December 2022.

South Africa gave an overview of their safety oversight system in aerodromes civil & electrical infrastructure and rescue & fire-fighting services and how it dovetails to both ICAO and state requirements. The presentation also included a brief demonstration of the automated system that they use to manage inspector assignments, operator audits, findings and corrective action plans. A full ICAO USOAP-CMA audit is scheduled for South Africa in March 2023.

The highlight of the training was the visit to Lanseria Airport on Thursday 19 January 2023 where the participants had an opportunity to put into practice the principles that had been learnt during the course.

iSASO is very grateful to South Africa for hosting the workshop, to ICAO to for facilitating the training and to all the member States whose participation made it a success.