



Procedures for Overflight and Landing of the American Air Forces Cooperation System

May 2015

INTRODUCTION

Considering the evolution of airspace control regulations over the years, this document updates the general requirements and procedures necessary to perform overflights and landings between member countries of the System of Cooperation among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA).

This revision is intended to maintain the spirit and intent of the original authors of this document.

VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE OF PUBLICATION	REMARKS
Edition 1 * * Edition 1 * Edition 1 * Edition 1 * Edition 1 * Edition 1 * Edition 1 * Edition 1	May 1967	
Edition 2 * * Edition 2 * Edition 2 * Edition 2 * Edition 2 * Edition 2 * Edition 2 * Edition 2	March 2000	
Edition 3 * * Edition 3 * Edition 3 * Edition 3 * Edition 3 * Edition 3 * Edition 3 * Edition 3	May 2015	

SICOFAA Overflight and Landing Procedures

1. OBJECT:

Establish rules and procedures to expedite and facilitate the procedures for obtaining overflight and landing permits for aircraft from countries whose Air Forces are members of the System of Cooperation among American Air Forces (SICOFAA).

2. GENERAL:

- a. The need to grant permission to an aircraft of a SICOFAA member country to fly over and land in the territory of another country whose Air Force is a member of the System is based on the international principles of independence and sovereignty that the aforementioned countries exercise in the airspace over their national territory.

In accordance with the recommendation of Annex 11 "Air Traffic Services" (Thirteenth Edition, note 2.2.1) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), "if a State delegates to another State the responsibility for the provision of air traffic services over its territory, it does so without derogation of its national sovereignty".

- b. The request, processing and granting of permits for overflight and landing of aircraft of the members of the System entails a particular procedure, being at the discretion of the respective Air Forces to adopt adequate administrative procedures (both internal and in coordination with other state agencies involved in the process) that allow reducing the time required between the request and the issuance of the permit in accordance with the legal regulations in force in each country.
- c. The general rules and procedures to be established shall be uniformly applied to the different aircraft of the members without particular distinction, and in a spirit of reciprocity among them.

3. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

- a. **Aircraft belonging to SICOFAA members:** Aircraft whose coordination or permit issuance is the responsibility of the System's Air Forces.
- b. **Competent Authority:** Organization, body or agency to which a country whose Air Force is a member of the System has delegated the authority to issue Overflight and Landing permits.
- c. **Overflight and Landing Permit:** A specific written document issued by the Competent Authority authorizing an aircraft of another member country of the System, within a specified period of time and under specified conditions, to fly over the airspace or land at aerodromes of the member country issuing the permit.

4. **PROCEDURES:**

a. **From the application:**

- 1) The application must be submitted to the Competent Authority of the pertinent country, through the accredited Air Attaché of the requesting country. In the absence of the latter, by the Defense, Military or Naval Attaché; or, as a last resort, by the Secretary of the Diplomatic Representation of the requesting country.
- 2) **Deadline:** The applicant undertakes to make the application within the time limit established by the relevant country. However, they recognize that in cases of emergency or force majeure this period may be reduced according to the circumstances. In addition, they undertake, on the principle of brotherhood, good faith and reciprocity, to process such requests expeditiously, trying as far as possible not to affect the completion of the requested flight.
- 3) **Information to be contained in the application:** All applications for overflight and landing permits must contain at least the following information:
 - a) Applicant country
 - b) Object of the flight
 - c) Aircraft Type(s) and Registration No(s)
 - d) Crew: With nominal indication of the Pilot Commander of the Aircraft; plus the numerical information of the crew members.
 - e) Passengers: They will be indicated numerically and VIP's nominally with additional grade information.
 - f) Type of cargo to be transported

- g) Point of departure and destination with indication of scheduled itinerary, indicating routes or airways, intersections of entry into and exit from the sovereign airspace of the State from which the permit is requested (including dates and approximate times) and flight level(s) to be used.
- h) Required aeronautical logistics and service facilities.
- i) Contact information of the authority requesting the issuance of the permit (phone numbers, mobile numbers, e-mail, etc.)
- j) Any other information that facilitates the competent authority granting the permit, the clear understanding of the mission.

Note: The application for an overflight and landing permit of this nature assumes that the aircraft(s) involved in it:

- They shall not be armed. In case of combat aircraft, they may only carry stations to place armament.
- They shall not be equipped with installed cameras, radar, infrared or any other observation and detection device.
- They shall not transport goods classified as "dangerous" in accordance with the provisions of ICAO Annex 18.

The permit application must expressly state the above.

On the other hand, the members of the System recognize that in some occasions the purpose of the flight (mission) for which a permit is requested, means the non-compliance of what is established in the previous note. If this is the case, there must be a clear statement on their part with respect to the equipment and materials on board.

In addition to the above, the Competent Authorities shall define and disseminate the appropriate procedures for receiving and processing the permits thus requested.

b. From the permit:

The Competent Authority of the country from which the permit is requested should communicate the permit:

- 1) Directly to the diplomatic attaché's office or diplomatic delegate.
- 2) If the above is not possible, the diplomatic attaché's office or delegation of the country granting the permit, or the competent authority in the requesting country, must be notified.

The Competent Authority should undertake as far as possible to issue permits on the conditions for which they were requested. However, it is also recognized that for National Security or Defense needs, or other national considerations, Competent Authorities may issue modified permits, or once issued, make amendments thereto.

The validity of the permit will be issued in accordance with the regulations in force in each country; once the permit has been received, the Competent Authority should undertake to notify any change with respect to what has been requested.

c. From the crews:

The applicant is responsible for the information provided for the permit application process. However, the Pilot Commander of the Aircraft assumes full responsibility for the exact fulfillment of what is established in the permit received.

5. OTHER PROVISIONS:

- a. Aircraft, crew, passengers and cargo shall be subject to the legal provisions in force in the country of entry; and to this effect, the Competent Authority should undertake to disclose the aforementioned provisions.
- b. Aircraft will maintain positive communication with the air traffic control units in each country and will enter through the entry channels established in the en route navigation chart, reporting the established control points.
- c. Entry into or departure from the country must be made to or from an international airport. For special commissions, the mobilization of Customs and Immigration services to an airfield that does not have these facilities will be coordinated through the competent authority.
- d. The Competent Authority shall determine the number of aircraft that may enter its country simultaneously for transit and landing, in accordance with its capacities, needs and current regulations.
- e. In the case of aircraft entering a country for the purpose of support flights due to accidents, searches, rescues, etc., a special procedure may be agreed upon to regulate such air activity.

- f. By virtue of bilateral and multilateral agreements, the countries whose Air Forces are members of the System may define other mechanisms to further facilitate the processing of overflight and landing permits.