



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

**Secretary
Dr Steven Kennedy PSM**

PDR ID: EC18-000194
Contact: Lachlan Phillips (02 6274 6869)

Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
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Dear Senator O'Sullivan

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee – Request for information – Notification of Differences to ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices

Thank you for your correspondence on the notification of Australia's differences to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) dated 9 February 2018.

As noted in your letter, Australia has filed a range of differences to ICAO on a range of aviation matters to meet its obligations under Article 38 of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (the Chicago Convention). Airservices Australia regularly publishes these differences in the Aeronautical Information Publication, which is available on their website.

In 2018, Australia has registered 4,280 differences against 11,244 ICAO Standards across the 19 Annexes to the Chicago Convention. The Annexes cover aviation safety and security, air navigation efficiency, environmental protection and passenger facilitation. Differences are not lodged against Recommended Practices. These differences do not equate to deficiencies, with each State choosing how to implement a particular standard taking account of its individual circumstances.

Differences filed with ICAO are subjective in how States assess their level of compliance, and how often they publish their differences. Australia takes a proactive and conservative approach, updating its differences often and reporting any point of difference to allow operators the information they need to conduct safe operations. This puts Australia at the forefront of international practice.

Due to the subjective nature of filing differences, ICAO benchmark safety arrangements through an audit process leading to an Effective Implementation (EI) Score. This is a measure of an individual State's safety oversight arrangements. Australia was most recently assessed by ICAO on its safety oversight arrangements from 9-13 October 2017. Following this assessment Australia has lifted its EI Score from 85.05% to 94.98%, and this will be published officially by ICAO towards the end of February 2018.

This means that, in real terms, Australia is in the top 10 countries in the world in terms of safety compliance. A list of the top 20 States by EI Score is at Attachment A.

I note the Committee's request for a comparison of Australia's notified differences with the top 20 aviation nations. The Department does not have the data to make this comparison, however we are seeking further information from the ICAO secretariat.

Yours sincerely

Steven Kennedy

21 February 2018

Top 20 Countries for Effective Implementation of Safety Oversight		
Rank	Country	Effective Implementation Score (%)
1	United Arab Emirates	98.79
2	Republic of Korea	98.5
3	Singapore	98.38
4	France	96.06
5	Canada	95.17
Provisional *	Australia	94.98
6	Brazil	94.96
7	Ireland	94.76
8	Chile	94.35
9	Nicaragua	94.09
10	United Kingdom	93.5
11	Finland	93.05
12	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	92.93
13	Austria	92.55
14	Romania	91.95
15	United States of America	91.79
16	Switzerland	90.61
17	Dominican Republic	90.52
18	Japan	90.28
19	Sweden	90.23
20	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	90.04

* Australia's updated Effective Implementation score will be published by ICAO from the end of February. The timing is based on finalising reports on the assessment, however the activity was completed in October 2017 and the results are not subject to change.