

The next steps for CORSIA

Late next year, airlines will need to submit details of how they will monitor fuel use to national authorities. Caroline O’Sullivan, ERA Manager Policy and Technical, explains the next steps for CORSIA

The reduction of carbon emissions is aviation’s biggest environmental challenge. However, the industry has an agenda; a roadmap and commitments in place on a global scale, led by ICAO (the International Civil Aviation Organization). CORSIA (Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) is a global market-based measure (GMBM), designed to ensure carbon offsetting through efficiency gains in technology, operations, systems and economic measures. ICAO has committed to regulate emissions growth from international aviation through a phased approach, which will be implemented in 2021.

CORSIA aims to achieve 1.5 per cent annual efficiency gains, achieve carbon-neutral growth by 2020 and the reduction of industry emissions by 50 per cent by 2050 from 2005 levels. These gains are an endeavour to compensate for traffic growth, which is projected by IATA to double over the next 20 years, based on a 3.7 per cent compound average growth rate.

Key elements

In 2016, the 39th ICAO Assembly yielded a long sought-after deal at global level. The ICAO Assembly GMBM Resolution (A39-3) of October 2016, which implements GMBM in the form of CORSIA, has the following key elements of focus:

- Any annual increase in total CO₂ emissions from international civil aviation above 2020 levels will be addressed.
- The pilot phase will run between 2021 and 2023 (volunteer states).
- The first phase will run from 2024 to 2026 (volunteer states).
- The second phase will run from 2027 to 2035 with all states participating, other than those exempted.

As of July 2017, 68 states have declared their intention to participate in the voluntary phases of the scheme. Once a country has agreed to participate, it must comply with any future decisions.

IATA (the International Air Transport Association) and ATAG (the Air Transport Action Group) continue to advocate industry support for application of CORSIA on a global basis, focussing on those states which have not yet declared an intention to participate in the voluntary phases. As such, the ‘CORSIA operator readiness campaign’ was launched at the last IATA annual assembly in Cancun. The objectives of the campaign are to get aircraft operators ready for the implementation of CORSIA and to be aware of the reasons behind the implementation. The campaign is a platform to identify

operators who may feel the measure does not apply to them, such as:

- smaller IATA and regional association members;
- non-IATA members; and
- airlines based in ‘exempted’ or ‘non-volunteering’ states.

The campaign further identifies that all operators worldwide (that fly international routes) will need to comply – and start doing so in the next 18 months.

Preparing for CORSIA

Preparations for aircraft operators from 2017 onwards have been identified to assist volunteers through the pilot phase. ERA members affected will need to choose a contact point within their organisation to ensure they receive information in order to comply with CORSIA – the representative should register at corsia@iata.org.

Whilst the scheme does not take effect until 2020, all airlines will need to start monitoring their emissions from 1 January 2019, with plans detailing how fuel use will be monitored submitted to national authorities for approval by late next year. IATA has developed the FRED (Fuel Reporting and Emissions Database) tool, to familiarise operators with fuel measurement methods and reporting of emissions. IATA and ATAG both presented on CORSIA and FRED at the last ERA Industry Affairs Group meeting in Brussels in July, and both presentations are available to members on the European Regions Airline Association website at: <http://www.eraa.org/policy/era-groups/industry-affairs>. Further, more detailed information can be found at www.enviro.aero/CountdownCORSIA.

More help is at hand, with IATA running training courses, workshops and webinars, which will be supplemented with toolkits, handbooks and online tools to assist planning, preparation and compliance. Furthermore, there will soon be a CORSIA page on the ERA website where members can get all the latest information detailing ERA coverage and advocacy in order to support and prepare its member airlines for the implementation of the scheme. ■

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