



International Civil Aviation Organization

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

For information only

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WEST AFRICA PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

1. Facilitation of transport by air of infectious substances and infectious patients

The emergency situation concerning the current Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa has resulted in a requirement for international transport by air (for laboratory analysis) of patient specimens potentially containing infectious substances, and also the carriage of potentially infectious patients for specialist treatment. The World Health Organization (WHO) has informed ICAO of some delays in these two activities. These delays are slowing down Ebola outbreak control efforts and WHO has asked that States be requested to facilitate such transport.

States are requested to ensure that operators minimize delay to the transport of any infectious substance believed to contain Ebola virus (shipped as “Infectious substance, affecting humans”, UN 2814) which are packaged in accordance with the relevant packing instructions (PI 620). Transport of any other infectious substance being sent for diagnosis (shipped as “Biological Substance, Category B (UN 3373)” or “Exempt human specimen” as appropriate) and packaged accordingly, should also be facilitated. States are further requested to minimize delay in granting permission for overflights by air ambulance operations that may be carrying Ebola-infected passengers for treatment.

2. Facilitation of relief flights undertaken in response to the emergency

States’ attention is drawn to Standards 8.8 and 8.9 of Annex 9 — *Facilitation* to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. These Standards set out the obligations of Contracting States in respect of relief flights undertaken in response to disasters which seriously endanger human health or the environment. These Standards call on States to facilitate the entry into, departure from and transit through their territories of aircraft engaged in relief flights following disasters, and ensure the prompt clearance of personnel and articles arriving on such aircraft.

As a result, relief flights carrying personnel and aid material are required to be cleared without delay in order to ensure that such flights are conducted efficiently and rapidly.

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