Welcome to our first Blog!

What is our aim?
We are all facing incredible hurdles right now, from transitioning into working from home to keeping our families healthy and happy. Despite the current global events, we want to make sustainability management as easy as possible. To do this we have created our first blog to welcome new and familiar faces to join us in improving the aviation industry to meet the growing challenges facing the environment and sustainability. This new IEnvA blog will try to provide some insights, information and try to address some of the broader matters related to IATA’s Environmental Assessment Program (IEnvA), sustainability management and how we can use this proven systems-approach during this time of uncertainty.

In future editions we will also get into more detail on some practical examples, updates on the IEnvA Program, updates from the Oversight Council and ways to improve your airline’s environmental and sustainability management approach – so be sure to save a few minutes every month to check in and see what’s new.

IEnvA?
IEnvA (IATA Environmental Assessment) is IATA’s management system solution for airlines and their subsidiaries to keep track of, mitigate and manage environmental and sustainability risks. The Program consists of continually evolving best-practice solutions, guidance, demonstrations and examples to deal with the most pressing environmental and sustainability issues facing the aviation industry today. IEnvA uses the proven document and governance structure of IATA’s Operational Safety Audit Program (IOSA), ensuring familiarity and compatibility with processes that already exists within airlines.

Recent changes
The IEnvA Program provides the option to use a phased implementation process that allows new IEnvA airlines to take a resource-friendly approach to implement environmental management practices that are customizable to each airline’s unique access to resources and objectives.

The IEnvA Oversight Council has recently approved two changes to the traditional phased implementation approach.

#1 For airlines that are more aggressive in their approach, IATA now provides the option for airlines to go directly for the full IEnvA registration (IEnvA Stage 2), essentially skipping the IEnvA Stage 1 process, reducing the amount of time by up to 12 months to achieve full Stage 2 registration.

#2 Traditionally, IEnvA has only been available to IATA member airlines. IEnvA has now been made available to non-IATA member airlines.

Get in contact with us to learn more.

Environment and sustainability

Management System. An airline’s IEnvA System is a management system at its core. For your airlines, this means that it places the ground rules for how your organization interacts with all its environmental risks and opportunities. For example, where to mitigate, communicate, engage, control, comply with regulations and where to influence – all within the requirements of the globally recognized provisions of the ISO14001:2015 standard.

Driving Environmental Performance. What are the basic drivers that enable the improvement of environmental performance of an airline? The focus areas include:

1. A unified sustainability vision for the organization
5. Non-centralized decision-making
6. Effective internal communications channels
7. Effective information-processing and distribution
8. Situational awareness, including negative impacts your operations, stakeholder concerns and the risks imposed on your airline of taking, or not taking action to mitigate impacts or concerns
9. Non-centralized but consistent risk-analysis
10. A solid understanding of your regulatory obligations, the associated risks of non-compliance and how to comply

When dealing with specific environmental impacts, an airline would use more specific measures, but we’ll look at these requirements in a following post.

Environmental Management vs Sustainability Management. Have you ever wondered about whether a specific project or risk is inside or outside the scope of your environmental management portfolio? This is not a new question, and you are not alone. We can’t provide all the answers, but we will say that, an IEnvA System provides the flexibility to manage not only your pure environmental impacts and risk, but also broader sustainability issues.

Let’s have a look at how an IEnvA Management System would be used to do this.

Did you notice that the word ‘environment’ was not mentioned once in the list of basic drivers of environmental performance? That is because these are simple business practices not exclusively related environmental management. These drivers can be applied universally to improve an organization’s performance related to all kinds of sustainability issues, as demonstrated by the diagram on the right.

For the airline’s out there with full IEnvA Systems in place, why not use those same IEnvA processes, already developed to deal with environmental matters, for your broader sustainability issues? You might just be surprised be how effective a structured approach can be when dealing with broader sustainability issues.

Want to know more?
If you are interested in learning more of IATA’s Environmental Management System, contact ienva@IATA.org to request more information.

Connect with us on MS Teams using the following code:

ye7dkpn

Get in contact
Quintin Holder
Senior Manager, Aviation Environment
IATA Environmental Assessment Program
holderq@iata.org