Continuing Airworthiness

The basic story

Definitions
Continuing Airworthiness – all of the processes ensuring that, at any time in its life, an aeroplane complies with the technical conditions fixed to the issue of the Certificate of Airworthiness and is in a condition for safe operation (ICAO Document No 9713 – 1998)

Airworthiness – Fitness for flight operations, in all possible environments and foreseeable circumstances for which aircraft or device has been designed (James Aerospace Dictionary)

Purpose of document
This document has been prepared by the International Federation of Airworthiness to assist the understanding of the basic Continuing Airworthiness requirements and control functions

These functions are often interdependent and their interaction may be complex because requirements span both time, with its technological progress, and a broad spectrum of aircraft types and sizes. The process of Continuing Airworthiness flows from the initial type certification, maintenance and operational regulatory authority approvals; these functions are included in the listing as a base reference.

The listing of control processes applies to both Commercial Air Transport and Cargo aircraft, as specified by the National Authority. Many of the functions also apply to non-Commercial Air Transport aircraft.

For practical reasons it is not possible to show any of the linkages between the major functions listed on the centre fold – they are many and detailed and require a full understanding of applicable content. Expanded information is given on the back page. Any unique requirements for a specific ICAO Member State must be determined.

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IFA has its main interest in promoting internationally improved knowledge and understanding of Airworthiness issues, through its Technical Committee, combining a wide range of aviation disciplines and worldwide experience. Members participate in international committees, meetings and conferences

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NEVER FORGET: IT IS OFTEN THE SIMPLE PROCEDURAL ERRORS WHICH LET US DOWN – NOT THE TECHNOLOGY