

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

PRELIMINARY

The first Soviet regulations concerning civil aviation were enacted on January 17, 1921, and later supplemented by several other regulations. In 1932 the scattered rules were unified in an Air Code. The Code of 1932 was revised in 1935 and remained in force until it was superseded by the Air Code of December 26, 1961, effective January 1, 1962.

In 1934 the Soviet Union ratified the Warsaw Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage By Air. The Soviet Union also signed the Hague Protocol of September 28, 1955 amending the Warsaw Convention, but has not yet ratified the Protocol. In addition, the Soviet Union has concluded several bilateral treaties on air transportation. Although a member of the United Nations, the Soviet Union is not a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association, both of which operate under the auspices of the United Nations.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Soviet Union's Constitution "water and air transport . . . are state property, that is, belong to the whole people". Thus, air transport is in the same position as industry, railways, etc. This is a general principle of the Soviet economy. The rules concerning aircraft and its operation, therefore, differ to a great extent from those adopted in other countries.

The main agency entrusted with the management of State owned aircraft, airports and airdromes is the Main Administration for Civil Aviation attached to the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.¹ Other cooperative and public organization may own or operate aircraft, airdromes and other ground facilities necessary for carrying out of their tasks only with the permission of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. The Main administration for Civil Aviation is empowered to issue rules, directives and instructions for all government, cooperative and public organizations concerning the operation of airdromes, flights, carriage of passengers, cargo and mail by air.

The general rules on navigation and operation of aircraft established in the Air Code apply to international flights with some additions specified in Chapter IV of the Air Code. Special rules are to be established for flights in restricted border areas and for the crossing of national frontiers (Art. 57), as well as for transportation of explosives, arms, munitions, poisonous and flammable substances, radioactive and other dangerous materials, radio, motion picture and photographic equipment and binoculars (Art. 96).

¹ On July 27, 1964, by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., the All-Union Ministry of Civil Aviation was established "on the basis of the Main Administration for Civil Aviation attached to the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R." On August 25, 1964, the former Chief of the Main Administration of Civil Aviation, Evgenii Fedorovich Loginov, was appointed Minister. There is no information about the relative status of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Main Administration for Civil Aviation.