



Flight Safety Notification Operations

Flight Safety Notifications (FSNs) are not mandatory in nature, but provide means such as guidance, methods, procedures and practices acceptable to the Authority for complying with regulations and other requirements in a systematic manner. These are not necessarily the only means of compliance. FSNs may also contain explanations of regulations, other guidance material, best practices or information useful to the aviation community. Unless incorporated into a regulation by reference, FSNs are not regulatory and do not create or change a regulatory requirement. A change of a regulatory requirement may come in the form of a Directive. A Flight Safety Notification is not a Directive.

Aircraft Observations and Reports

Reason for Revision

N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this FSN is to establish the requirements for air operators to record and report on observations made by the flight crew during flight. In accordance with this FSN, air operators are required to establish policies and procedures for flight crew to record and report on:

- (1) Routine meteorological observations during en-route, and climb-out phases of the flight;
- (2) Special and other non-routine observations during any phase of the flight; and
- (3) Volcanic activity.

References

- (1) ICAO Annex 3 Meteorological Service for International Aviation Chapter 5 Subsection 5.9, Recording and Post Flight Reporting of Aircraft Observations of Volcanic Activity.
- (2) ICAO Document 9376 Preparation Of An Operations Manual, Second Edition 1997: Chapter 8 Operations Supervision -Flight; Subsections 8.7.8 and 8.9.

Applicability

This applies to all Jamaican Air Operator Certificate holders.

Effectivity

This FSN is effective immediately.

Background

In keeping with recent ICAO changes, each Jamaican Air Operator Certificate holder is now required to record in flight occurrences in addition to their normal reporting. These occurrences shall be reported and recorded in all phases of flight.

Action

A. Special Aircraft Observations

Special observations shall be reported by all flight crew whenever any of the following conditions are encountered or observed:

- (1) Moderate or severe turbulence;
- (2) Moderate or severe icing;
- (3) Severe mountain wave;
- (4) Thunderstorms, without hail, that are obscured, embedded, widespread, or in squall lines;
- (5) Heavy dust storm or heavy sandstorm;
- (6) Volcanic ash cloud; or
- (7) Pre-eruption volcanic activity or a volcanic eruption.

Note: - Pre-eruption volcanic activity in this context means unusual and/or increasing volcanic activity which could presage a volcanic eruption. Special aircraft observations of pre-eruption volcanic activity, a volcanic eruption, or volcanic ash cloud shall be recorded on the special air-report of volcanic activity form. A copy of the form shall be included with the flight documentation provided to flights operating on routes which, in the opinion of the meteorological authority concerned, could be affected by volcanic ash clouds.

B. Other Non-Routine Aircraft Observations

When other meteorological conditions not listed above, for example; wind shear, are encountered and which, in the opinion of the pilot-in-command, may affect the safety or markedly affect the efficiency of other aircraft operations, the pilot-in-command shall advise the appropriate air traffic services unit as soon as practicable.

Note: - Icing, turbulence, and to a large extent, wind shear, are elements which, for the time being, cannot be satisfactorily observed from the ground and for which in most cases aircraft observations represent the only available evidence.

C. Reporting of Aircraft Observations during Flight

- (1) Aircraft observations shall be reported by air-ground datalink. Where air-ground datalink is not available or appropriate, special and other non-routine aircraft observations during flight shall be reported by voice communications.
- (2) Aircraft observations shall be reported during flight at the time the observation is made or soon thereafter as is practicable.
- (3) Aircraft observations shall be reported as air-reports.

D. Recording and Post-Flight Reporting of Aircraft Observations of Volcanic Activity

Special aircraft observations of pre-eruption volcanic activity, a volcanic eruption or volcanic ash cloud shall be recorded on the special air-report of volcanic activity form. A copy of the form shall be included with the flight documentation provided to flights operating on routes which, in the opinion of the meteorological authority concerned, could be affected by volcanic ash clouds.

E. Air Operator Action

All Air Operator Flight Crew are now required to:

- (1) In addition to reporting on hazardous conditions in all phases of flight, to record for their post flight reports on all hazardous meteorological conditions, including volcanic activity.
- (2) Volcanic activity observations will be reported on the form approved by the JCAA.
- (3) All other observations are to be reported in a form and manner approved by the JCAA.
- (4) All air operator operations manuals are now to be revised to reflect this FSN.

Approved by: _____



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