

(UPDATE) Safety of Civil Aircraft Operating in the Accra Flight Information Region (FIR)

With reference to 15SAB015 concerning safety of civil aircraft operating in the Accra Flight Information Region (FIR), the Secretary General of ICAO has issued the following State Letter AN 13/4.11-15/64 on the 16th July 2015 as an update concerning the Safety of civil aircraft operating in Accra Flight Information Region (FIR). There will be NOTAMs issued in the coming days explaining how the airspace will be controlled.

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to refer to State letter AN 13/4.11 – 15/57, dated 3 July 2015, addressed to you as the appropriate State Authority of aircraft operator(s) which may use the airspace of the Accra flight information region (FIR).
2. A coordination meeting between the parties concerned, Nigeria, and international organizations, was held under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), from 13 to 15 July 2015, concerning the recent publication by the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) on behalf of Benin and Togo, of Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) Supplement 51/A/15GO effective from 25 June 2015, promulgating a change in airspace arrangements within the Accra FIR which is under the responsibility of Ghana, and their intent to provide air traffic services (ATS) within a portion of this airspace.
3. In this respect, the States concerned agreed to make arrangements to avoid the provision of air traffic services (ATS) by more than one ATS provider in the same airspace, and that, with immediate effect, ATS over the high seas airspace within the Accra FIR and over the territories of Ghana will be provided under the responsibility of the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA). Further, ATS over the territories of Benin and Togo will be provided by ASECNA, on behalf of Benin and Togo. Coordination procedures, including letters of agreement/procedure between the GCAA and ASECNA within the Accra FIR have been agreed and are to be activated on 28 July 2015 at 00h01UTC. Coordination procedures between ASECNA and the provider of ATS in the Kano FIR, the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), were activated on 16 July 2015 at 00h01UTC.
4. I would like to draw your attention to this positive development that may be taken into consideration when you assess flight safety risk in flying in the Accra FIR.
5. I will continue to monitor the situation and notify you of any significant developments.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Issued under the authority of the Secretary General, Raymond Benjamin