

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

The Regional Director for the ICAO European Region has today (18 August 2015) issued the following letter to States and Organizations regarding the safety of civil aircraft operating in the Simferopol Flight Information Region (FIR).

1. I have the honour to address you as the appropriate State Authority of aircraft operator(s) which may use the airspace of the Simferopol flight information region (FIR) and refer to my letter EUR/NAT 14- 0243.TEC (FOL/CUP) dated 2 April 2014 on the same subject, [contained in **IFALPA Safety Bulletin 15SAB001**]. You will recall that taking into consideration the publication by the Russian Federation of a series of notices to airmen (NOTAMs) modifying the Simferopol FIR which is under the responsibility of Ukraine, and their intent to provide air traffic services (ATS) within this airspace, I drew your attention to the possible existence of serious risks to the safety of international civil flights. You will also recall that due to the unsafe situation where more than one ATS provider may be controlling flights within the same airspace consideration should be given to measures to avoid the airspace and circumnavigate the Simferopol FIR with alternative routings. Alternative routings are available for those operators choosing to avoid the Simferopol FIR.
2. On 13 August 2015 Ukraine promulgated procedures via an Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) as well as a series of NOTAMs that take effect on 27 August 2015 in an effort to support safe operations on a limited number of air traffic services (ATS) routes in the western part of the Simferopol FIR. In this respect, you are urged to consider this, and any other pertinent information, to reassess flight safety risk in the Simferopol FIR.
3. ICAO continues to actively coordinate with all involved authorities, international organizations, airspace users and other States in the region regarding developments as they unfold, specifically those which could impact flight safety.

[ICAO will continue to keep us informed of any significant developments]