

European Aviation Safety Agency

DECISION 2014/027/R OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY

of 30 July 2014

on the possible courses of action for EASA to address the issue of volcanic ash ingestion in turbine engines

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008, on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency¹, and in particular Articles 38(3)(a) and 38(3)(e) thereof,

WHEREAS:

- (1) The Agency is obliged, pursuant to Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 to reflect the state-of-the-art and the best practices in the fields concerned and update Certification Specifications taking into account worldwide aircraft experience in service, and scientific and technical progress.
- (2) ICAO has now published comprehensive airline operational guidance material in Doc 9691 *Manual on Volcanic Ash, Radioactive material and toxic chemical clouds*, which advances the understanding of the airworthiness effects of flight into volcanic ash clouds and provides mitigating measures to minimise encounters and provide a high level of safety.
- (3) The Agency issued a Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA 2012-07) to implement the recommendations of ICAO Doc 9691 and to provide detailed guidance for the development and evaluation of a safety risk assessment for the management of operations with known or forecast volcanic ash cloud contamination. Changes resulting from this NPA were adopted in ED Decisions 2013/006/R, 2013/007/R, 2013/008/R and 2013/009/R dated 16 April 2013.
- (4) The Agency issued a Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA 2011-17) to support and strengthen the safety risk assessment process by facilitating the transfer of data from design organisations to affected operators on the susceptibility of their products to volcanic cloud hazards. Changes resulting from this NPA have been adopted in CS-25 Amendment 13 by ED Decision 2013/010/R. Changes to other airworthiness CSs are currently ongoing.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency, and repealing Council Directive 91/670/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1592/2002 and Directive 2004/36/EC (OJ L 79, 19.03.2008, p. 1). Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EU) No 6/2013 of 8 January 2013 (OJ L 4, 9.1.2013, p. 34).

- (5) The Agency issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Amendment (A-NPA 2012-21²) with the aim of gathering information from stakeholders on the concept of moving towards airworthiness certification of turbine engines and proposing a number of possible options that could be followed. The feedback provided during the consultation showed that stakeholders considered that there was no rationale to depart from the current ICAO operator-centric approach and that the concept of avoiding operations in visible ash clouds remained a strongly supported principle.
- (6) The Agency, pursuant to Article 52(1)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 and Article 14 of the Rulemaking Procedure³, has widely consulted interested parties on the matters which are the subject of this Decision. The consultation was performed through A-NPA 2012-21 (dated 28 November 2012). Thereafter, the Agency provided the outcome from this consultation through CRD to A-NPA 2012-21 (dated 30 July 2014).

HAS DECIDED:

Article 1

The Agency concludes that, based on currently available knowledge, reports and evidence, there is no safety case that would justify an immediate and general rulemaking action to introduce a new volcanic ash airworthiness requirement for turbine engines.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force 1 day following that of its publication in the Official Publication of the Agency.

Done at Cologne, on 30 July 2014.

*For the European Aviation Safety Agency
The Executive Director
Patrick KY*

² <http://easa.europa.eu/rulemaking/docs/npa/2012/A-NPA%202012-21.pdf>.

³ Management Board Decision concerning the procedure to be applied by the Agency for the issuing of opinions, certification specifications and guidance material (the 'Rulemaking Procedure'), EASA MB/08/07, 13.6.2007.