

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Survey on standard weights of passengers and baggage Final report, May 2009

The survey on standard weights of passengers and baggage aimed at checking the validity of the current standard masses used by air operators, thus assessing the need to update the current operational requirements. The survey consisted of two campaigns performed during summer 2008 and winter 2009 at 8 airports situated in different regions of Europe, chosen after consideration of the characteristics of their traffic. Those are London Gatwick, Amsterdam Schiphol, Madrid Barajas, Copenhagen Kastrup, Frankfurt, Warsaw Frederic Chopin, Athens and Sofia.

Nearly 23 000 passengers and more than 22 000 checked baggage were surveyed. The results were subject to a statistical analysis and led to generally satisfactory results, though questionable for children, since this randomly performed survey could not focus on retrieving more data for this category.

As expected when launching the survey, mean masses of passengers have increased (by 3 to 5 kg), both for male and female. However, the study shows also that the distribution between male and female in scheduled flights has also evolved in the direction of an increased mean number of female passengers, thus limiting the effect of the mass increase. The measured mean masses on scheduled flights are 92 kg for male passengers and 73 kg for female, the resulting mean for all adults being 86 kg. On non-scheduled flights, the values are 88 kg for male passengers, 71 kg for female and 80 kg for all adults.

Similarly, mean masses of checked baggage show an increase, ranging from 15 kg for domestic flights to 16 kg within the European region and 18 kg for intercontinental flights, which is 3 to 4 kg more than the current standard masses.

EASA will conduct a preliminary impact assessment in order to evaluate how to best take those results into account in the European operational regulations.