



International Civil Aviation Organization
Middle EastRegional Monitoring Agency Board

Thirteenth Meeting (MIDRMA Board/13)
((Bahrain, 9 –12 March 2014))

Agenda Item 4: RVSM Monitoring and related Technical Issues

LARGE HEIGHT DEVIATION AND DATA COLLECTION

(Presented by MIDRMA)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents the recent MIDRMA activities for collecting the Large Height Deviation (LHD) reports from the MIDRMA Member States and the new online reporting of LHD.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- MIDANPIRG/14 Report
- MID RVSM SMR 2012-2013

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The term Large Height Deviation (LHD) was introduced in the early days of RVSM to provide a definition for an actual vertical displacement of an aircraft from its assigned RVSM flight level by 300ft or more. While possible for a number of reasons, the term became particularly associated with operational and technical errors, and provided a criterion for the consideration of aircraft vertical performance by Scrutiny Groups. It specifically implied an actual displacement of the aircraft, rather than the presence of an aircraft at a level which is unprotected by ATC.

1.2 Experience has shown that the primary source of reporting Large Height Deviation is the ATC units providing Air Traffic Control services in the airspace where RVSM is applied; all MIDRMA member states are required to submit Large Height Deviation Reports which occurred in their FIRs on a monthly basis even if none was reported during the month of reporting.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The vertical risk estimation due to atypical errors has been demonstrated to be the major contributor in the overall vertical-risk estimation for the MID RVSM airspace, The final conclusions of the data processed in all the previous SMRs have been severely limited by the continued NIL reporting of Large Height Deviations (LHDs) from some members which does not support a high confidence in the SMRs results, the MIDRMA is reiterating the importance of submitting such reports especially from FIRs with high volume of traffic.

2.2 The MIDRMA raised their serious concerns to MIDANPIRG, MIDRMA Board and to the ATM/AIM/SAR Sub Groups meetings in several occasions concerning the lack of receipt of LHDs from some MIDRMA member states or the continuous receipt of NIL LHD reports in some very busy MID FIRs which reflects unrealistic picture of the risk analysis carried out for the region.

2.3 During the last reporting SMRs periods, the MIDRMA noticed that large percentage of the received LHDs were NIL reports which raise the same question in all the published SMRs concerning the accuracy of our calculations pertaining to all safety parameters. The MID RVSM airspace is considered to be among the world leaders in terms of rapid and steady traffic growth which makes accurate and timely participation vital to the reliability of findings. The present level of reporting LHDs by some member states is not acceptable and does not reflect the evolving real picture of RVSM operations in our region.

2.4 The table below shows the number of LHDs reported by the MID States during the last SMR reporting periods:

	Months	July 2011 - April 2012		May 2012 - Aug 2013	
		ADR/LHD	CFR	LHD	CFR
1	Kuwait	0	54	0	125
2	Oman	0	96	0	52
3	Syria	0	2	0	7
4	UAE	10	30	2	3
5	Iran	0	37	3	21
6	Saudi Arabia	3	25	4	0
7	Bahrain	2	189	5	201
8	Egypt	0	28	6	6
9	Jordan	27	21	28	0
10	Iraq	0	24	54	271
11	Qatar	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	Lebanon	1	0	0	0
13	Yemen	0	0	0	0

2.5 In order to improve the level of reporting LHD by Member States, the MIDRMA Board/12 meeting requested from the MIDRMA to develop an online reporting page in their official website and to prepare guidance materials for explaining the online reporting method.

2.6 The MIDRMA will include a training session for LHD online reporting in the third day of the meeting through the new MIDRMA website. The new reporting method will require the focal point to register with the MIDRMA who will be given access to a reporting secured page to submit the reports.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to urge States to:

- discontinue sending CFRs and LHDs reports with effect of 1 May 2014; and
- use only the LHD online reporting application through the MIDRMA website.