



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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**WACAF workshop on the
provision of information on
volcanic eruptions and ash
clouds**

16 to 20 June 2025



WACAF workshop on the provision of information on volcanic eruptions and ash clouds

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Action to be taken by Air Operators



ICAO

Secretariat

Summary

- Responsibilities of air operator
- Action by air operator prior and during to volcanic eruption

Responsibilities of air operator

❑ RULES OF THE AIR

Responsibility of pilot-in-command

The pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall, whether manipulating the controls or not, be responsible for the operation of the aircraft in accordance with the rules of the air, **except that the pilot-in-command may depart from these rules in circumstances that render such departure absolutely necessary in the interests of safety.** (A2, STD2.3.1)

Pre-flight action

Before beginning a flight, the pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall become familiar with all available information appropriate to the intended operation. **Pre-flight action for flights away from the vicinity of an aerodrome, and for all IFR flights, shall include a careful study of available current weather reports and forecasts, taking into consideration fuel requirements and an alternative course of action if the flight cannot be completed as planned..** (A2, STD2.3.2)

Responsibilities of air operator

❑ RULES OF THE AIR

Authority of pilot-in-command of an aircraft

The pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall have final authority as to the disposition of the aircraft while in command. (A2, STD2.4)

SAFETY MANAGEMENT

The SMS of a certified operator of aeroplanes or helicopters authorized to conduct international commercial air transport, in accordance with Annex 6, Part I or Part III, Section II, respectively, shall be made acceptable to the State of the Operator. (A19, STD4.1.4)

Action by Air operators in the event of a volcanic eruption

Circumstances: In the event of volcanic eruption, the air operator shall

Action 1: should request their pilots to report, when appropriate, any observation related to a volcanic ash cloud including the absence of visible ash and all other relevant information such as observational conditions.

Action 2: forward this information to the associated VAAC and to its crew and planners in a timely manner

Action 3: Conduct safety risk assessment to inform the decision making for operations planning.

Action 4: Coordinate the possible rerouting of flight with the appropriate ACC/FIC as appropriate

Action 5: closely and continuously monitor VAA, VAR/AIREP, SIGMET, NOTAM and ASHTAM information, and information from its crews, concerning the volcanic ash cloud hazard



Thank you!
Merci beaucoup!