Safety Recommendation – Australia - 07-09-2023

ICAO action:

The Secretariat has reviewed the recommendation to amend the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services concerning the inclusion of air traffic control communication procedures to provide increased assurance that flight crews have received information regarding safety-critical aerodrome conditions such as reduced runway length. While there may be merit in amending these provisions, the matter will be referred to the Air Traffic Management Operations Panel (ATMOPSP) for a detailed technical review. Should the ATMOPSP recommend a proposal to amend Annex 11, the normal amendment procedures will apply. The outcome of the review by the panel will be communicated to you in due course. The Secretariat has reviewed the recommendation to amend the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services concerning the inclusion of air traffic control communication procedures to provide increased assurance that flight crews have received information regarding safety-critical aerodrome conditions such as reduced runway length. While there may be merit in amending these provisions, the matter will be referred to the Air Traffic Management Operations Panel (ATMOPSP) for a detailed technical review. Should the ATMOPSP recommend a proposal to amend Annex 11, the normal amendment procedures will apply. The outcome of the review by the panel will be communicated to you in due course.

ICAO action:

1) ATMOPSP/8 noted that Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services, 4.3.6.1 e) required that, when automatic terminal information service (ATIS) is provided, “aircraft shall acknowledge receipt of the information upon establishing communication with the ATS unit providing approach control service or the aerodrome control tower, as appropriate.” Furthermore, Annex 11, 4.3.6.4 required that “if an aircraft acknowledges receipt of an ATIS that is no longer current, any element of information that needs updating shall be transmitted to the aircraft without delay.” In addition, Annex Annex 10 — Aeronautical Telecommunications, Volume II — Communication Procedures including those with PANS status,5.2.1.5.8 defined the term “ACKNOWLEDGE” as “Let me know that you have received and understood this message.”

2) ATMOPSP/8 agreed that, when read in conjunction, these provisions provided positive assurance that flight crews had correctly received and comprehended the current ATIS information and ensured that any amendments were communicated without delay.

Accordingly, ATMOPSP/8 agreed that Annex 11 not be amended in response to the recommendation contained in the ATSB report.