



International Civil Aviation Organization

# ICAO Response to the Icelandic Eruption: Actions Taken and Those Underway

*Atlantic Conference on Eyjafjallajökull and Aviation  
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# Contents

- Impact of the Icelandic eruption on aviation; Safety Remains Aviation's First Priority
- Regional Response – Immediate European Focus; Tactical Issues Addressed
- Global Response – Strategic Issues Being Addressed - Activity Underway via the International Volcanic Ash Task Force

# Provider States Obligations

- Under the Chicago Convention (Aviation Law)
  - **State of the Operator / State of Registry**
    - As regulator of
      - operators; and
      - aircraft on its registry
    - Establish/endorse procedures for
      - operators assessing the risk of operation in volcanic ash; and
      - flight crews operations in or near airspaces contaminated by volcanic ash
  - **Provider State**
    - provides aeronautical information about safety hazards within the area of responsibility
    - provides air navigation services to international aviation within a defined airspace

# Action prompted by Icelandic Eruption



## – In the EUR/NAT Region

- Update of the EUR/NAT Contingency Plans
  - Introduction of three levels of ash concentrations
  - Addressed by the Karsten Theil, Regional Director European and North Atlantic Office, Paris

## – Globally

- Establishment of the International Volcanic Ash Task Force (IVATF)
  - 16 States, 13 International/Regional Organizations
  - Involvement of all the stakeholders (AIR, ATM, IAVW, SCI)
  - Work Programme established

# Action prompted by Icelandic Eruption



- Purpose of the IVATF
  - Involving all the stakeholders and disciplines
  - Accelerate strategic progress in all areas including:
    - Aircraft Operations and Airworthiness Subgroup
    - Air Traffic Management and Contingency Planning Subgroup
    - Meteorological and Natural Sciences Subgroup
    - International Volcanic Ash Watch Subgroup (IAVW)
  - Coordination Function
    - use of the existing groups (e.g. IAVW Operations Study Group) as much as possible
  - Not a standard ICAO body with well-established procedures : both an opportunity and a challenge!

# Bottom Line

- International Volcanic Ash Task Force should be called ***International Voluntary Task Force***
  - Sponsored by ICAO, but ALL participants (except its Secretary) are volunteers
- Programme Coordinator/Chairman
  - Mr. Peter Lechner (New Zealand)
- Subgroup Managers
  - Aircraft Operations and Airworthiness - Mr. van der Boom (Netherlands)
  - Air Traffic Management and Contingency Planning - Mr. Lachance (Canada)
  - Meteorological and Natural Sciences Subgroup - Ms. Guffanti (United States)
  - International Volcanic Ash Watch Subgroup (IAVW) - Dr. Tupper (Australia)