



ALERT: RUNWAY SAFETY TEAMS

The benefits of local runway safety teams were highlighted at the ICAO Global Runway Safety Summit in May 2011. These teams are a critical part of an effective safety program for the prevention and mitigation of Runway Excursions, Runway Incursions and other occurrences related to runway safety.

Ref: ICAO Doc 9870, *Manual on the Prevention of Runway Incursions*

Concern

Local runway safety teams are not in place at all Canadian airports. Regular meetings between the airport, the air navigation service provider, air operators and any other relevant stakeholder provide an effective multi-disciplinary approach to managing the safety of runway operations.

Recommendation

Airport authorities initiate a local safety team with key stakeholders.

Determine the team's goals, such as:

- a) to improve runway safety data collection, analysis and dissemination;
- b) to check that signage and markings are compliant with Canadian regulations and visible to pilots and drivers;
- c) to develop initiatives for improving the standard of communications;
- d) to identify potential new technologies that may reduce the possibility of a runway incursion;
- e) to ensure that procedures are compliant with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) or Canadian regulations where they differ from ICAO; and
- f) to initiate local awareness by developing and distributing runway safety education and training material to controllers/ flight service specialists, pilots and personnel driving vehicles on the aerodrome.

Write the Terms of Reference, for example:

The runway safety team will enhance runway safety by:

- a) determining the number, type and, if available, the severity of runway incursions;
- b) considering the outcome of investigation reports in order to establish local hot spots or problem areas at the aerodrome;
- c) working as a cohesive team to better understand the operating difficulties of personnel
- d) working in other areas and recommending areas for improvement;
- e) ensuring that the recommendations contained in the *Manual on the Prevention of Runway Incursions* (Doc 9870) are implemented where they are consistent with Canadian Regulations;
- f) identifying any local problem areas and suggesting improvements;
- g) conducting a runway safety awareness campaign that focuses on local issues, for example, producing and distributing local hot spot maps or other guidance material as considered necessary; and
- h) regularly reviewing the airfield to ensure its adequacy and compliance with ICAO SARPs or Canadian regulations where they differ from ICAO.