

SAFETY INFORMATION 07/2024

02 April 2024



ADHERENCE TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) CLEARANCES: ENSURING SAFE AND ORDERLY AIR NAVIGATION

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This Safety Information (SI) aims to emphasise the importance of strict adherence to Air Traffic Control (ATC) clearances by pilots during all phases of flight. Compliance with ATC clearances is critical to maintain the safety, efficiency, and orderly flow of air traffic.
- 1.2 In this SI:
 - a. "ATC clearance" shall refer to authorization for an aircraft to proceed under conditions specified by an air traffic control unit.
 - b. "Standard Instrument Departure (SID)" shall refer to a designated instrument flight rule (IFR) departure route linking the aerodrome or a specified runway of the aerodrome with a specified significant point, normally on a designated ATS route, at which the en-route phase of a flight commences.
 - c. "Standard Instrument Arrival (STAR)" shall refer to a designated instrument flight rule (IFR) arrival route linking a significant point, normally on an ATS route, with a point from which a published instrument approach procedure can be commenced.

2 Background

- 2.1 It has been observed that incidents of non-compliance with ATC clearances during the departure and arrival phases have occurred at various airports across the country. These incidents have the potential to lead to serious incidents or accidents if not addressed promptly.
- 2.2 While adherence to ATC clearances is crucial at all airports, it is particularly critical at airports with simultaneous departure and arrival procedures, such as Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), which operates under high-density conditions. Strict compliance with ATC clearances, including SID and STAR clearances is essential to ensure the safe, efficient, and orderly flow of air traffic. Deviations from these clearances could significantly increase the risk of conflicts and potential incidents.

3 Pilots Obligations

- 3.1 Pilots are reminded to ensure that they fully understand and comply with the SID, STAR and other clearances issued by ATC. Any deviation from these clearances is only permitted in emergencies or in response to a traffic alert and collision avoidance system resolution advisory.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of pilots to verify the availability and operational requirements of SIDs and STARs, as outlined in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) Malaysia.

4 Air Traffic Controllers Obligations

- 4.1 Air Traffic Controllers shall ensure that all communications with pilots are clear, concise, and unambiguous. This includes providing timely and accurate instructions, ensuring that readbacks are correctly received, and promptly addressing any misunderstandings or clarifications needed.
- 4.2 Controllers should also be vigilant in monitoring aircraft adherence to clearances and promptly intervene if deviations are detected.

5 Monitoring and Compliance

- 5.1 Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring pilots' adherence to ATC clearances and will continue to closely monitor compliance among crew.
- 5.2 Airlines and aircraft operators are strongly encouraged to reinforce the significance of adherence to ATC clearances among their crew members to ensure the safe management of air traffic across all Malaysian airports.

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