

# International Ops Bulletin

Declan Selleck

22 April, 2024



**Hey! Are you here for our World Famous International Ops Bulletin?** The one where you get all this weeks new dangers and changes in International Ops? The one that 50,000 people read every week?

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Every Wednesday, OPSGROUP issues a weekly **International Ops Bulletin** for International Pilots, Dispatchers, ATC, Regulators, Authorities, Airlines and Aircraft Operators.

We cover this weeks changes to International Flight Operations – Airports, ATC, Procedures, New rules, Visas, Airspace alerts, Weather issues, and warnings and dangers to international aviation.

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**Want to see a sample first?**

Sure thing. It looks a little like this (click to open the full sample):

## International Ops Bulletin



### Europe: Most GA/BA aircraft now exempt from next year's Datalink Mandate

The [original plan](#) was for datalink to be required for **all aircraft** operating in Europe **above FL290** from 5 Feb 2020. But now it looks like [most GA/BA aircraft](#) will be **exempt** from this.



### Africa: Hajj 2019 routes now in operation

The [Hajj routes](#) will be in effect from now through to Oct 9. Across the northern half of Africa, there will be a **big increase in flights operating east-west**, [crossing the normal flow](#) of north-south traffic between Europe and Africa.

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## On simplifying International Flight Information ...

Mark Zee  
22 April, 2024



Our aim with the weekly **International Ops Bulletin** that we produce is to take relevant operational news affecting International Flight Operations each week, and **simplify it**.

It's a learning process for us as well, because the technical language of aviation is often unnecessarily

**verbose, legalese, jargon-filled text.** Spare a moment for those of us that don't have English as our first language (and that's most).

Our process is to read through the source data, translate them into bullet point plain English, and combine these with the Flight Reports, News, and Input that we get from our 25,000 or so readers.

For each item, we also ask ourselves one simple question. **Would this affect my decision as an Aircraft Operator to fly to this Airport?** If yes, then we'll include it – relevance is as important as clarity.

Some stories are worth expanding into a quick blog post, primarily to gather the useful links into one spot so that you can explore more of the story if you want to, and those will appear here.

We've now moved to publishing the Bulletin on a Wednesday; blog posts can happen anytime. For regular email delivery, just **pop your details in here**.

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## Monday Briefing: Sinai Airspace avoided, Low Vis creates day of chaos

Declan Selleck  
22 April, 2024

<b>INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN</b>	<b>ISSUED BY FLIGHT SERVICE BUREAU</b>
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**02NOV2015** HECC/Cairo has requested that traffic through PASOS point on the boundary with LCCC/Nicosia FIR be rerouted, effectively closing airway UL550 and the Sinai peninsula. Shown on radar image above, most traffic is avoiding the area that an A321 crashed in on Saturday. No definite link is

being made but Authorities and Operators are naturally cautious.

**02NOV2015** Conditions perfect for fog across the UK and western Europe are causing widespread delays this morning. Unusually, almost all airports from EGCC/Manchester to EDDF/Frankfurt are affected by the same conditions, with many airports down to 100 metres vis. Most not accepting diversions. See below for further.

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**EXXX/Europe** High delays in most Airports in a square containing EGCC/Manchester, EBBR/Brussels, EDDF/Frankfurt, and EDDH/Hamburg. Total of approx 120,000 slot delay minutes in Eurocontrol system. Other high delay airports include EHAM, EGLL, EGKK, EGSS. Check NOTAMs as most are not accepting diversions either. Fog forecast to be similar again overnight.

**VTBB/Bangkok FIR** A minimum departure interval of 4-8 minutes between same direction departures is in force from 30OCT for aircraft departing VTCC VTCT VTUU VTUD VTSP VTSG VTSF VTSB VTSM AND VTSS. Delays during peak hours are expected.

**UUBC/Grabtsevo** New Russian Airport now fully operational with 2200m runway (12/30) and able to accommodate international traffic up to A320/737 size.

**UHSS/Yuzhno Sakhalinsk**, a common Polar alternate, is closed due runway repairs 1200-2100Z until 01DEC and therefore not available as ALTN for Flight Planning.

**NTTA/Tahiti** will be without radar on 03NOV after 1800Z. As with all radar outages there is potential for delays and restrictions.

**KXXX/USA** Runway current closures: BWI-RWY 10/28, SEA-RWY 16C/34C, LAS-RWY 7L-25R.

**KSFO/San Francisco** will close Taxiway Q and B on 07/08NOV to resolve a pavement issue. This will create a one-in-one-out restriction for aircraft taxiing to and from all gates west of Taxiway Q1. Specifically, this will affect United Airlines, SFOs largest customer, as a majority of its gates are west of Q1. Additionally, the proximity of the closure area to Taxiway B1 will render B1 unusable due to insufficient wing tip and jet blast clearance with the construction area. The loss of Taxiway B1 means that access to the end-around Taxiway Z will be unavailable.

**HKXX/Kenya** No longer possible to obtain a visa on arrival for passengers. Must now be arranged prior to arrival online at <https://account.ecitizen.go.ke/register>.

**S000/Cayenne FIR, South Atlantic** – Aircraft not FANS 1A equipped, east of 50W in the Cayenne FIR, can now expect a maximum level of FL310 westbound.

**EXXX/Europe** The European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) is providing a new tool to calculate Passenger Taxes payable in EU countries. The “PaxTax” tool calculates the total passenger tax for the flight, and breaks down the cost for both departure and arrival for the respective national taxing authorities.

**YBBN/Brisbane** New \$45m international terminal opened 28OCT after 18 months of construction. The facility can handle 7.5m pax annually.

**VNxx/NEPAL** Fuel supply update: China will supply fuel to Nepal for the first time ever, in response to a dire fuel shortage caused by disrupted supply lines with India. China will supply 1.3 million liters of gasoline, which will be transported to Kathmandu from the border via 100 tanker trucks. Please continue to check local NOTAMs for fuel availability.

**DNxx/Nigeria FIR** Widespread reports of a strike forcing the closure of Nigeria's airspace have been deemed unreliable, per the Nigerian CAA. There is unrest and occasional industrial action, but no risk of airspace being closed.

**Timezone Changes** As DST ends in the Northern Hemisphere, series of clock changes completed on 01NOV as US ended Daylight Savings. Most of Europe completed theirs on 25OCT. Most northern countries are now on Standard Time.

**View the complete International Operations Bulletin for 02NOV2015.**