

China-Taiwan M503 Airway Dispute

David Mumford

15 April, 2024

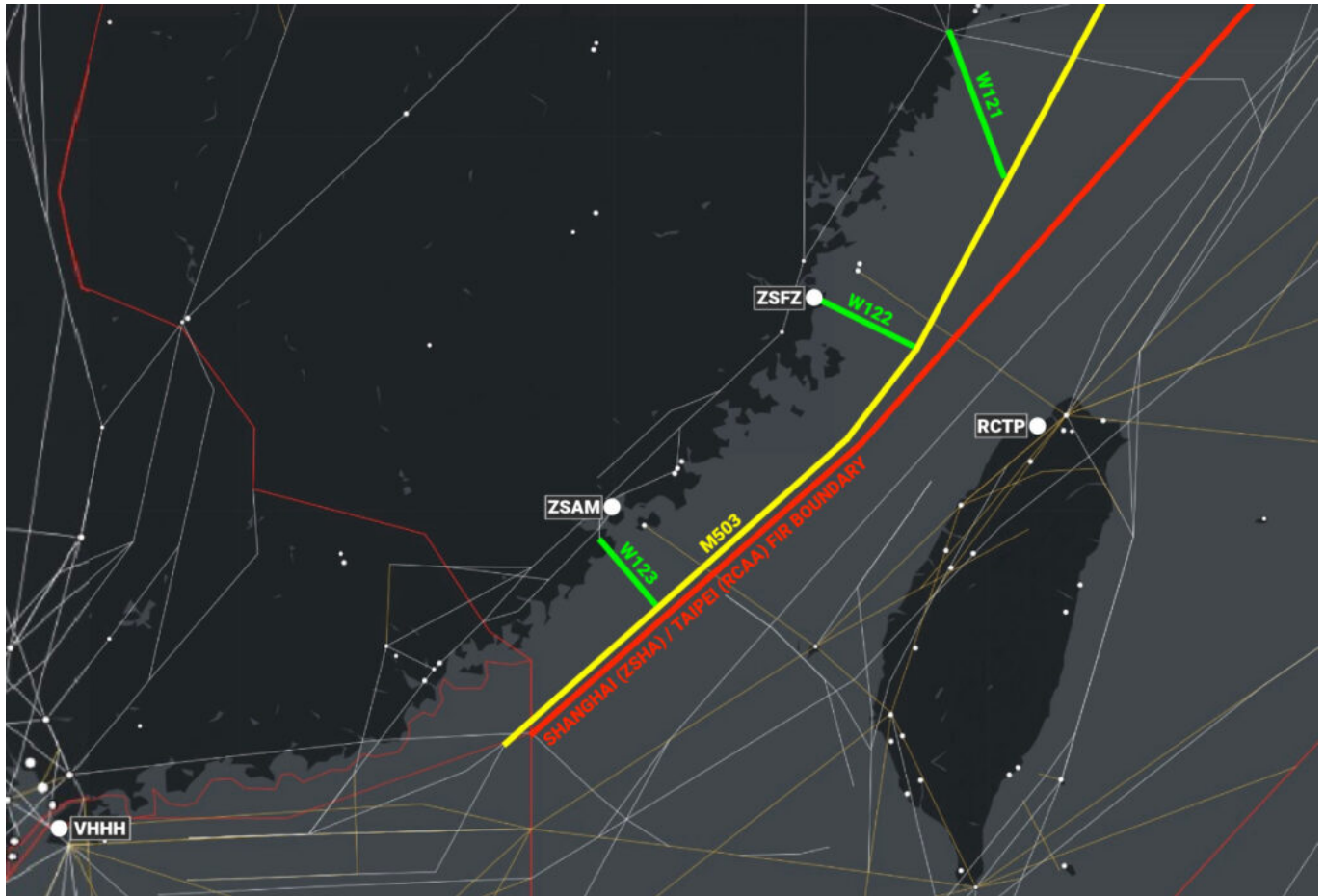


China has cancelled all concessions previously made to Taiwan regarding the **M503 airway** that runs along the ZSHA/Shanghai and RCAA/Taipei FIR boundary.

What does this mean in practice?

- China have moved the airway 6nm back towards the FIR boundary.
- They have started allowing eastbound flights on the the W122 and W123 connecting routes.

So now, of all these routes, the only one that is not bi-directional is W121 (westbound only).



Taiwan aren't happy, same argument as before: they say the airway is too close to existing routes that serve airports in outlying groups of Taiwan-controlled islands, and thus poses a risk to safety. China have ignored them.

Can I use M503?

China only allow airway M503 to be used under certain conditions:

1. **Aircraft must be RNAV2 capable.**
2. **The flight must be going between VHHH/Hong Kong or VMMC/Macau and certain Chinese airports: ZSPD/Shanghai Pudong, ZSQD/Qingdao, ZSYT/Yantai, ZYTL/Dalian.**

Everything else transiting east-west across this region will need to use the congested parallel A470 airway along the southeastern coast of mainland China.

Ops to Taiwan? You'll have to avoid China

David Mumford
15 April, 2024



- Can I fly between China and Taiwan?
- If I make a stop in Hong Kong, is that ok?
- What about overflights?
- Can I overfly China to get to Taiwan?

There's a **boring answer** to these questions, and there's a **fun answer**.

The Fun Answer

OPSGROUP members have all the fun – you guys get to play the game. We tested it out and managed to find the 'cheat mode', so we left the screen open for you. You can download this (along with all the other Opsicles we've made) via your Dashboard here.

The Boring Answer

You can't fly between China and Taiwan in a foreign-registered aircraft.

The Chinese authorities are reluctant to provide any kind of official document stating any of this – we haven't been able to find any precise wording anywhere in their AIP which states these restrictions.

To test the theory, we applied to the Chinese authorities for a landing permit for a direct flight from Taiwan to China. After we applied, we received an immediate call from CAAC emphasising that they **will not deal with such applications** for foreign registered aircraft. They advised they will not process this application and **verbally rejected it**.

The Chinese authorities circulate an official document to Chinese handling agents about this issue, which sets out the rules quite clearly. For some reason, they don't like these to be distributed outside of China... so naturally, we got our hands on a translated copy:

Take off from	Tech stop at	Overfly	Tech stop at	Destination	Allowed?
Taiwan		Mainland China		Third countries	No
Taiwan	Third countries	Mainland China		Third countries	Yes
Taiwan		Sanya FIR		Third countries	Yes
Taiwan	Third countries	Sanya FIR		Third countries	Yes
Taiwan				Mainland China	No
Mainland China				Taiwan	No
Mainland China		Taiwan		Third countries	No
Third countries		Mainland China		Taiwan	No
Third countries		Mainland China	Third countries	Taiwan	Yes
Third countries		Sanya FIR		Taiwan	Yes

So, to summarize:

- **Foreign-registered aircraft are prohibited from operating direct between China and Taiwan.**
- **You've got to make a tech stop somewhere between the two countries - most choose to do so in either VHHH/Hong Kong or VMMC/Macau.**
- **Importantly, the same rules apply for China overflights - if you're flying to Taiwan from any third country, you can't overfly China. China allow some airline flights to Taiwan to overfly China, then the Hong Kong FIR. But they don't allow non-sched and private flights to do this.**
- **Only Chinese and Taiwanese registered aircraft are able to operate direct between China and Taiwan.**

There's one more scenario that is apparently also not allowed:

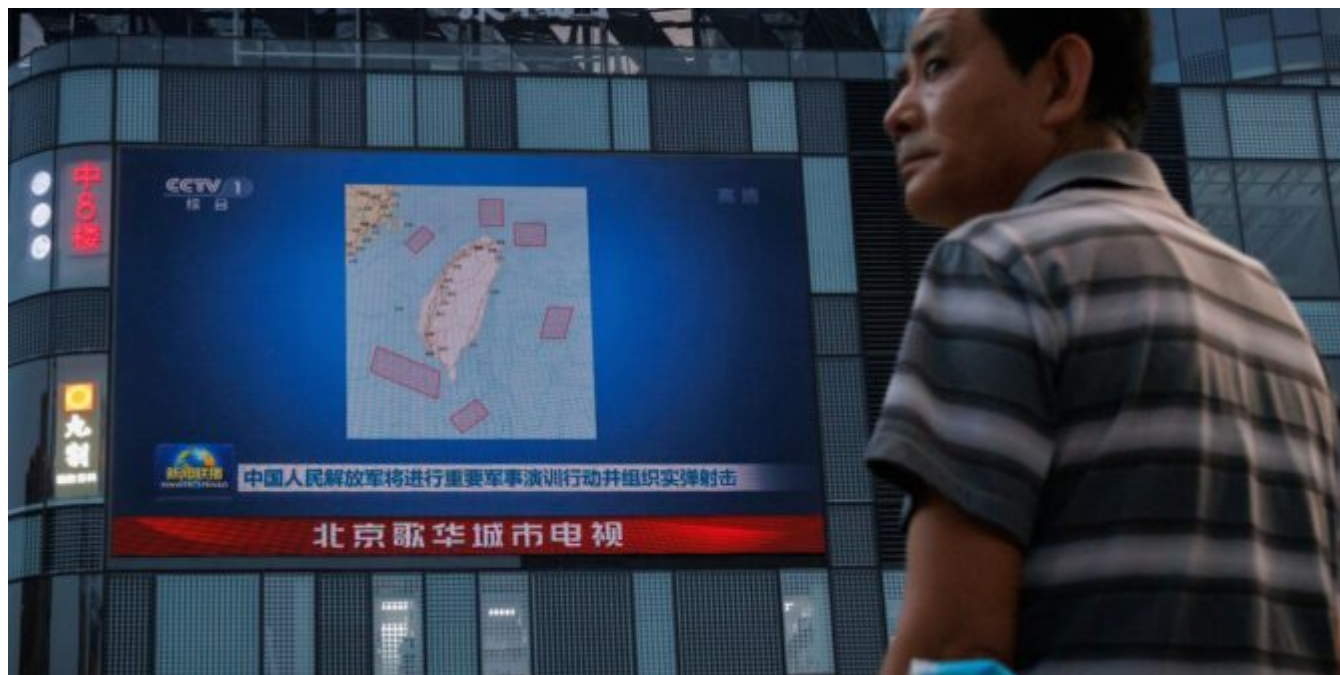
You can't overfly both China and Taiwan and then land in a third country. For example: you're departing from RPLL/Manilla in the Philippines, then overflying Taiwan (RCAA FIR), then overflying China (ZSHA FIR), and then landing in a third country like RKSI/Seoul in South Korea - according to the Chinese authorities, **this is not allowed**, and they won't issue an overflight permit!

Further reading:

- For some general **top tips on ops to China**, check [here](#).
- Make sure you know about the **hidden permit costs** of operating to China [here](#).
- Read about the latest goings on in the **South China Sea** [here](#).
- OPSGROUP members can download a **Himalayan Routing Guide** [here](#).

We Need to Talk About China!

OPSGROUP Team
15 April, 2024



China held new drills near Taiwan on Monday, a sign that they may intend to **normalize their military presence around Taiwan**. This came a day after the Chinese military ended their extensive 3-day exercises encircling Taiwan, effectively simulating a blockade.

During those exercises, there were **significant impacts to flight ops in the region**. Xiamen Airlines and Korean Airlines made adjustments to several flights to **avoid the airspace**, Cathay Pacific pilots were reportedly advised to **carry an extra 30 minutes of fuel**, and there were cancellations at **RCTP/Taipei** airport in Taiwan and **ZSAM/Xiamen** and **ZSFZ/Fuzhou** airports in mainland China.

China published **ZBBB Notam A2119/22** which set out the six Danger Areas where **flights were prohibited at all levels**:

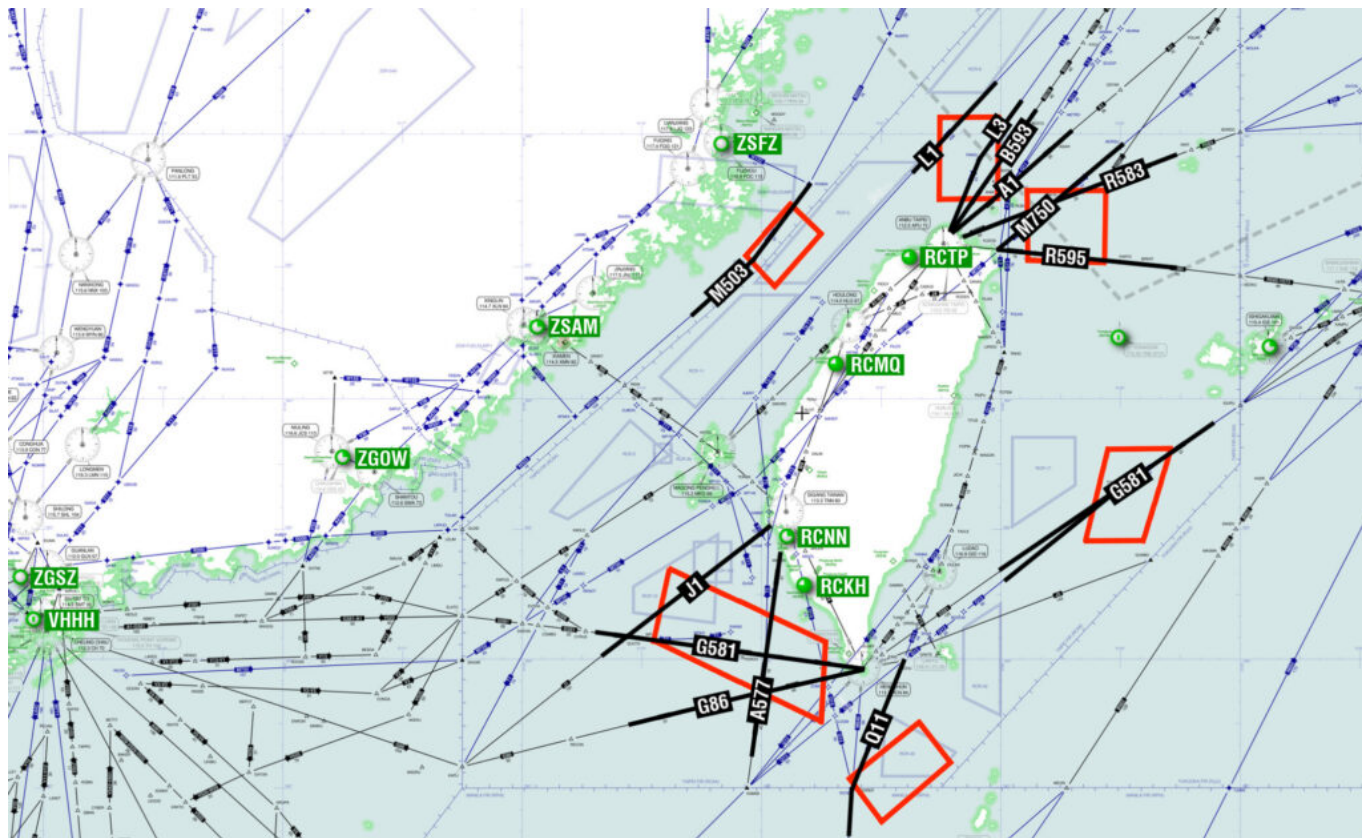
A2119/22 - A TEMPORARY DANGER AREA ESTABLISHED BOUNDED BY:

1. N251526E1202920-N245030E1200545-N250432E1195122-N252812E1201430
BACK TO START.
2. N260700E1215700-N253000E1215700-N253000E1212800-N260700E1212800
BACK TO START.
3. N253400E1225000-N250300E1225000-N250300E1221100-N253400E1221100
BACK TO START.
4. N225600E1224000-N233800E1225100-N233800E1232300-N225600E1230900
BACK TO START.
5. N211400E1213300-N213300E1211800-N210700E1204300-N204800E1205900
BACK TO START.
6. N224300E1191400-N221000E1190600-N213300E1202900-N220900E1203200
BACK TO START.

VERTICAL LIMITS: SFC-UNL. ALL ACFT ARE PROHIBITED TO FLY INTO THE
AREA. SFC - UNL, 04 AUG 04:00 2022 UNTIL 07 AUG 04:00 2022. CREATED: 02 AUG
15:03 2022

Here they all are, plotted on a map:

And here are all the main airways that intersect those Danger Areas:



The Danger Areas affected major routes between Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia.

For any future exercises that China announces, if you're planning on transiting the **RCAA/Taipei, ZSHA/Shanghai or RPHI/Manila FIRs** then make sure you check the **ZBBB Notams** as it might not show up as part of your flight briefing pack.

Hypersonic missile launch

China launched **an unannounced hypersonic missile** on Aug 1 (we could not find any Notams for it). This marked the 95th anniversary of the Peoples Liberation Army being founded, and coincided with an announcement from the US that they might visit Taiwan.

The missile was **only fired towards Taiwan**, falling some 120km off the coast into the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan-China procedures

Specific procedures regarding international flights into Taiwan have existed for years, and you can find more in-depth information on these here, and a post on general tips for China Ops here.

A brief summary:

- Foreign registered aircraft are prohibited from operating directly between China and Taiwan.
- If you need to make a tech stop between the two, VHHH/Hong Kong or VMMC/Macau are good options.
- The same rules apply for China overflights - if you're flying to Taiwan from any third country, you can't overfly China.
- Only Chinese and Taiwanese registered aircraft are able to operate directly between China and Taiwan.

Because of these, the airspace over the Taiwan Strait is not hugely busy and the missile posed a limited risk to aircraft.

Heightened military activity

China have been showing heightened military activity in and around the **South China Sea**, ownership of which is disputed by neighbouring countries. This is not directly linked with the Taiwan situation, but provides some further political (and flight ops) awareness, particularly because of the strategic military positions China hold in this region.

In addition, China have been carrying out **military drills in various areas**, mainly near the East China and Bohai seas. These **rarely impact flight operations**, with the prohibited zones focused on maritime traffic. However, increased offshore helicopter traffic and some flight disruptions into coastal airports do occur.

China have been increasing their **incursions into Taiwanese airspace** for a while, with a spate of them towards the end of 2021. These **pose some risk to commercial operations** for several reasons – **increased military traffic** being the obvious one. A lesser risk of **misidentification** is heightened as well, along with the potential response if a civilian aircraft accidentally encroaches on out of bounds Chinese military airspace (well, all of it is military, but some of the really ‘don’t go in there’ parts).

What if China shut their airspace?

We are not saying it will.

However, China are initiating a major offensive in Taiwan, and this does draw parallels to Ukraine and Russia. If the US military becomes involved, this **may lead to sanctions** between the two countries. Some early consideration as to what airspace closures might mean is therefore a good idea.

China is a major air corridor, particularly with Russian airspace currently closed to the US and Europe. Reduced access or closure of the airspace will see **flights routing far further south** via Japan, and potentially across the South China Sea before routing across Thailand, India and Pakistan and the Middle East.

The impacts would be significant for various reasons:

- This will **significantly increase flight times and distances**, and likely be prohibitive for aircraft with lesser range capability (without fuel stops).
- The South China Sea may see **increased risk levels** if China increase their military presence there as well.
- **Summer weather patterns** can create further routing difficulties particularly around the Bay of Bengal area.

Other threats to consider.

The Cyber Threat

Chinese action in terms of cyber security *breaches* have been questioned more than once.

The political stuff

China and the US have a history of ‘messy’ visas for aircrew already. Further tensions are likely to increase this. Security for certain nationalities will need consideration.

Trade

China is a major trade partner with the US and Europe and sanctions on trade may impact aircraft parts manufacture.

China steps up incursions into Taiwan's ADIZ

OPSGROUP Team
15 April, 2024



Relationships between Taiwan and China have become increasingly strained over the last month and officials are starting to question whether this might be impacting aviation safety in the region. Here is a look at the conflict and the potential impact it may have on commercial operations.

The background.

Taiwan and China have a long and ongoing dispute over whether Taiwan is *Taiwan – an independent country*, or *Taiwan – a breakaway province that is still part of China*. China is officially known as the People's Republic of China (PRC), while Taiwan refers to themselves as the Republic of China (ROC).

Similar to Hong Kong, Taiwan has retained a **high level of independence from mainland China**, and effectively governs itself, having its own constitution, democratically-elected leaders, and own armed forces.

Unlike Hong Kong however, **Taiwan rejected China's "one country, two systems" formula** which would have enabled them to retain autonomy, while reunifying with China. It remains a disputed country with few countries around the world recognising it as a sovereign nation independent of China.

This is at the root of this conflict, and in recent months China has become more assertive in their control over Taiwan.

Here is a good summary of the political situation.

What are China doing?

China have been “re-asserting” themselves over Taiwan by carrying out **repeated incursions into the Taiwanese Air Defense zone**. A recent incursion saw 39 military jets fly into the zone, for the second day in a row. The aircraft included 2 Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft, 26 J-16 fighter jets, 10 Su-30 fighters and a KJ-500 early warning and control aircraft.

They are reports of a 52 aircraft incursion which included 16 nuclear-capable H-6 bombers.

Where is the airspace?

Taiwanese national airspace is the airspace over Taiwanese land, extending to 12nm off their coast over the territorial waters. **Military aircraft are not allowed to enter any national airspace** without express permission from the state. **China did not violate the national airspace**, but did violate the ADIZ.

An ADIZ is different to national airspace, and is specifically declared by a state for **reasons of military air defence**. Some states designate their entire airspace as an ADIZ (Iran being a good example).

Taiwan’s ADIZ sits between Taiwan and continental Asia, over the South China Sea (the Taiwan Strait), shown (approximately) below. The ADIZ itself is disputed as well though since it overlaps and includes disputed territories.

Is there any threat to civil aircraft?

The ADIZ overlaps international civil flight routes. The increase in military traffic and activity in the area is a potential threat.

Taiwan's response to the repeated incursions has been to scramble their own military aircraft, issue radio warnings and deploy their air defence missile systems. The deployment of air defence systems could raise the **risk of misidentification** between civil and military aircraft, if Chinese aircraft do stray beyond the ADIZ and into national airspace.

The Vice Defense Minister of Taiwan suggested the incursions "are affecting the safety of international flights," but the statement was possibly political and as yet there has been no report of civil aircraft being impacted by the situation.

Procedures in Taiwan's ADIZ

You can read the procedures in full in Taiwan's AIP ENR 1.12.1, or download a PDF [here](#). But here's a summary of how it works:

- There are restrictions for non-tactical aircraft in the area including **no flight below 4000'**, and to **maintain flight along designated airways**. ATC contact must be obtained prior to entry.

- Aircraft will be intercepted by the Chinese Air Force if they fail to follow ADIZ procedures, or if they exceed 5 mins ETA of a designated reporting point, deviate more than 20nm from the airway entrance or have greater than a 2000' difference from assigned altitude.
- Basically, if you are flying in the ADIZ, make sure you're in contact with ATC, and don't do

anything without telling them first. Pretty standard stuff for operating through an ADIZ.

General ops.

We wrote about operations to Taiwan back in 2019 and it is worth having a quick read because **if you are a foreign registered aircraft** because:

- You are not allowed to operate directly between China and Taiwan
- If you need to make a tech stop between the two then aim for VHHH/Hong Kong or VMMC/Macau
- You probably aren't going to get permission to overfly China if you are routing to Taiwan from anywhere else.

You can read more on this [here](#).

Back in 2018, there was also a dispute over **China's M503 airway**. The airway is a main north-to-south route for aircraft heading to Hong Kong or Macau from Southeast Asia. Taiwan didn't like it because it lies so close to the FIR boundary separating Chinese and Taiwanese airspace.

The result of the dispute seemed to be a sort of "tough luck" from China, and aircraft still regularly use the airway. More on this [here](#).

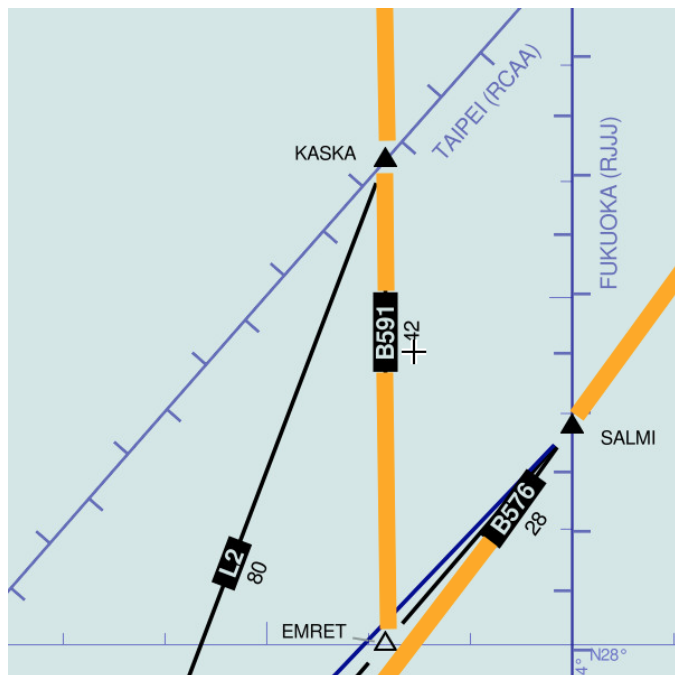
The risk level?

While the ongoing conflict and aggressions do threaten the general peace and stability of the region, there is no immediate threat to commercial operations. Maintain a good listening watch if operating in the area and ensure you are in contact with ATC if operating through the ADIZ.

Taiwan pushes ADS-B requirement to 2020

Declan Selleck

15 April, 2024



The fast approaching deadline of **December 2016** for all aircraft within the Taipei FIR above FL290 to be ADS-B equipped, has been given a new date of implementation – 2020. Clearly, the amount of operators not so equipped has rendered the ADS-B plan unachievable.

Yesterday, Taiwan issued AIC 06/16 confirming the new date, and also adds that aircraft are no longer required to have ADS-B Out operational approvals by the State of Registry.

As things stand, then, you technically need ADS-B to operate on B576 and B591 – but if ATC radar is functioning normally, that rule is also waived. **So, in effect, check back in 2020.**

References:

- **Taiwan AIC 06/16**

Midweek Briefing 10AUG: EASA Cockpit Rules, Ukraine extends Russia Ban

Cynthia Claros
15 April, 2024

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

ISSUED BY FLIGHT SERVICE BUREAU

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EASA: New Cockpit Rules 10AUG EASA has published a new SIB with guidance for operators on, well, how best to arrange the swap of *pilot-taking-a-pee* and *flight-attendant-now-up-front* ... Read the article

Ukraine extends Russia ban 10AUG Ukraine has extended the ban on Russian registered operators overflying or landing, until November 10th, 2016. In an operational notice.. Read the article

UZZZ/The Moscow Area will get busy between 26AUG and 04SEP (we're not entirely sure why), but ... The Main Air Traffic Management Centre (MATMC) has issued notice that there will be increased regulation for flights to UUWW, UUDD, and UUEE. Permission to depart **will expire 30 mins after planned off blocks time**, after which the Operator (that's you) must call MATMC for a completely new permit.

MWCR/Cayman recorded its first local transmission of the Zika virus on 08AUG. Several other people on the Cayman Islands have reported symptoms of the virus; however, authorities stated that in these cases the patients contracted Zika during travel abroad.

MKJK/Kingston, Jamaica is carrying out work on its Comms lines until the end of the week, and is expecting to lose some Flight Plans. The outage is 0415-1100Z daily. If you are operating to Jamaica, or through the FIR, it's worth sending your FPL early, and not during that time. Maybe send it a few times to be sure, should minimise delays due to missing FPL's.

VIZZ/India Independence Day on 15AUG. Multiple restrictions. No overflights within 150nm of Delhi. VIDP/Delhi will not allow non-scheduled flights 0030-0430Z, and 1030-1330Z. Check with your handler for specific restrictions on 15AUG.

LIRA/Rome Ciampino will be completely closed from 14-29OCT for runway maintenance and upgrades. According to CIA, maintenance work will be carried out on a 24/7 basis on parts of runway 15/33, at various junctions and taxiways.

EVVA/Ventspils is closed for the week from today, due to repairs to the main runway. One of the three main airports in Latvia, it reopens on 15AUG.

GUCY/Gbessia, Guinea Opposition leaders have announced the postponement of opposition demonstrations planned for 10-16AUG. Marchers will reportedly demonstrate on the Autoroute Fidèle

Castro, between Aéroport International de Gbélia (GUCY/CKY) and the Palais du Peuple. The demonstration was originally slated to occur on 4 August but was later postponed until 10 August.

WIZZ/Indonesia Travel advice updated: Political tensions have given rise to occasional mass demonstrations in cities in Papua; take extra care and seek local advice on your travel plans.

SOCA/Cayenne FIR has broken its SITA system and has no CPDLC or ADS-C until, they think, at least 14AUG. Revert to HF and use 8855/5526; failing that try 3023.

RJZZ/Japan On 08AUG, Japanese military officials placed the country's armed forces on alert for the potential of a North Korean missile launch. According to an official statement, the Japanese military will be ready to strike any North Korean missile that threatens Japan. Because some North Korean missile tests are difficult to detect, the current state of alert will last for three months. Previously, Japanese defense officials issued a series of temporary orders in response to imminent North Korean missile launches.

LWKS/Skopje Flooding on 6-7AUG2016 in Skopje and neighbouring areas has resulted in over 20 deaths. Some roads, including part of the Skopje ring-road, are closed. Alternative routes are available, but traffic may be slow moving. You should travel with extreme care.

LTZZ/Turkey Per new dictat from the DGAC in Turkey, all Ambulance flights entering Turkish airspace are to report "ACTIVE AMBULANCE FLIGHT" on first contact with Turkish ATC.

DIZZ/Cote D'Ivoire Effective 15SEP2016 Ivory Coast will withdraw the following HF frequencies: BOUAKE 5710KHz, 1578KHz; DALOA 5701KHz, KHOROGO 6673KHz; Man 5710.5 KHz; ODIENNE 6673 KHz; SAN PEDRO 6012KHz

EDDV/Hannover has special runway configurations on 14AUG due to (yet another) bomb from WW2 being removed. Between 1100-1400Z all approaches to 27L/09R are suspended.

VVZZ/Hanoi ACC reports that a lot of flights operating through the Hanoi ACC area of responsibility have not been submitting flight plan messages to VVHNZRZX or VVHNZQZX. In order to avoid missing / delay of FPL messages, copy these AFTN addresses when submitting your FPL's.

EGZZ/United Kingdom 8AUG Rail staff in southern England, including London, began a five-day strike, which will reduce rail services by 40 percent. Travellers should expect major delays and large-scale traffic disruptions

BGSF/Kangerlussuaq Daily Closures between 09AUG and 30AUG for runway work. Double check NOTAMR A0295/16 for complete list of timings. Only Medivac, Search and Rescue and PPR confirmed operations allowed.

KTEB/Teterboro Landing Fees here are to increase by about 25% on September 1st. Comments regarding the fee changes can be submitted to The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and must be received by 10AUG2016.

Measles Myanmar/Taiwan On August 6th health officials confirmed a measles outbreak in the Sagaing region, a mountainous area located in northern Myanmar, bordering eastern India. We have also received report from Taiwanese health officials confirming a link between two cases of measles and Taipei's Songshan International Airport (RCSS/TSA). The two cases, which were first detected on 15JUL, involved an airline ground crew worker and a passenger who traveled to the airport.

SECU/Cuenca, Ecuador Operations at Cuenca airport will be suspended from mid-August 2016 for 3 weeks to 1 month due to the need for additional runway works.

OMDB/United Arab Emirates On 04AUG both runways at Dubai International Airport (OMDB/DXB) resumed full operations following the 03AUG 777 accident. Expect delays and some cancellations as the

airport is still struggling to catch up.

UTZZ/Turkmenistan and **UAZZ/Kazakhstan** On 04AUG Turkmenistan temporarily closed its border with Kazakhstan, citing security concerns. Officials stated that the closure will last for five days. Turkmenistan instituted a similar border closing on 20JUL. Authorities did not release details on the purported security concerns that prompted 04AUG closure.

UZZZ/Russia 03AUG Polish officials stated that they did not have a specific date to reopen visa-free border traffic between Poland and the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. Security concerns associated with the NATO Summit and Roman Catholic Church's World Youth Day led officials to temporarily restart border checks at Poland's borders. Residents of border areas, however, will be able to travel across the border for cultural, social or family reasons.

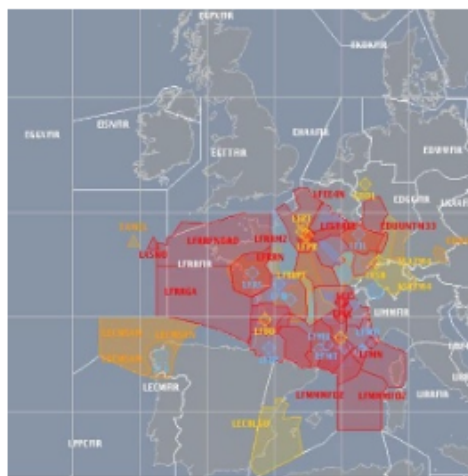
UNKL/Yemelyanovo Runway11/29 is closed for all types of aircraft THU 0600-0700, WED FRI 0610-0710, MON TUE SAT SUN 0500-0700, 01SEP until 29OCT

View the full International Bulletin 10AUG2016

Midweek Briefing 01JUN: EASA Updates 'Suspect Aircraft' Guidelines, 8th French ATC Strike

Cynthia Claros
15 April, 2024

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN	ISSUED BY FLIGHT SERVICE BUREAU
	SITA HNLFSXH AKLFSXH AFTN KMCOXAAL EMAIL INTL.DESK@FSBUREAU.ORG



EASA Updates 'Suspect Aircraft' Guidelines 01JUN EASA has published new guidelines for inspectors to assess which aircraft should be prioritised for SAFA ramp checks in Europe and SAFA compliant states. Read the article.

8th French ATC strike this weekend 01JUN Notification has been given by French ATC Unions of a

Three Day Strike this coming weekend from Friday-Monday, starting at 0400Z Friday 03JUN. Read the article.

ZZZZ/China The new 144 hour visa-free rule is extended to Nanjing Lukou Airport of Jiangsu, Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport of Zhejiang, and all air, sea and railway ports of Shanghai, including Pudong Airport, Hongqiao Airport, Shanghai Port International Cruise Terminal, Wusong Passenger Transport Center and all railway stations in Shanghai.

CYMM/Fort McMurray is scheduled to reopen 10JUN to regular commercial operations. The airport has been closed to normal traffic due to a significant forest fire.

MMAA/Acapulco after an outage lasting several years the ILS for RWY 10/28 is operational again.

KSEA/Seattle has runway 16C/34C closed until 27JUN for repairs. ATC initiatives possible through the construction.

EINN/Shannon and **EICK/Cork** will be testing a new "Remote Tower" system from 06JUN until September, where at quieter times the controller in Dublin will provide the ATC service to flights at Shannon and Cork. The IAA says airspace users will not notice the change. We think you might.

LFLY/Lyon will be re-numbering their runway to 17/35 from 18/36 in September.

VOTP/Tirupati will begin International operations beginning the end of June with flights to the U.S. The airport had recently upgraded their customs systems and other procedures.

LZZZ/Mediterranean Despite some reports, NATO operations in Libya appear unlikely. There are several new airspace NOTAMs, but is anyone still flying to Libya?

LFZZ/France due to ongoing protests at french oil refineries and fuel shortages the French CAA has advised to tanker in as much fuel as possible to help mitigate any issues. Please check with local handlers for any specific fuel constraints.

SPZZ/Ecuador Volcano Sangay is producing ash that extends up to 20,000 feet. Movement is towards the west at 10 knots. Please check with the Washington VAAC for the latest advisories.

LLBG/Tel Aviv, Israel On 26-27MAY strike action in the form of a work go-slow took place. The slowdown has primarily affected outgoing flights by increasing the time between takeoffs, but it has been reported that if the slowdown continues it will begin to affect incoming flights.

NVZZ/Vanuatu 27MAY a 5.0 magnitude earthquake struck west of Vanuatu. The quake was centered approximately 60 mi/95 km northwest of Port Vila and was measured at a depth of about 6 mi/10 km. No tsunami warning has been issued.

DAZZ/Algeria At 0054 local time (2354 UTC) on 28MAY, a magnitude 5.2 earthquake struck approximately 35 mi/55 km southeast of Algiers, the capital of Algeria. The epicenter of the earthquake registered a depth of approximately 7 mi/ 12 km. Following the quake, there were no reports of injuries or damage.

FNZZ/Angola A yellow fever outbreak has caused 301 deaths so far this year. The number of suspected cases is 2,536. The outbreak began in Luanda and has since spread to areas throughout the country, particularly along the coast and in the central regions, despite a large-scale vaccination program.

VDPP/Cambodia Political tensions are high in Cambodia following contested national elections in 2013. Arrest warrants have been issued for the leaders of the opposition CNRP party and the situation is

unpredictable. On 30 May police blocked roads in southern Phnom Penh to prevent opposition CNRP supporters from carrying out a planned protest march. Further disruption is possible if the remaining leader is arrested. The opposition party has announced it will hold mass, non-violent, demonstrations and a number of unions have said they will strike in support.

LFZZ/France Despite recent strikes, the French government has stated it will not back down from labor reforms despite street protests and refinery blockades. The CGT Union has threatened to disrupt the upcoming Euro 2016 soccer tournament if the government does not back down; however, after meeting with representatives of the oil industry, government officials stated that the situation at fuel depots is improving.

Ramadan starts on 06JUN, for one month. If you are operating to any Islamic countries, expect the usual slowdown in work, longer processing times for permits, and closures.

OEZZ/Saudi FIR Saudi Arabia has intercepted a ballistic missile that was fired from Yemen, after which Saudi aircraft bombarded the missile's platform. A Saudi official stated that the country may reconsider the kingdom's truce with Yemen, as a result of the strike. The missile launch was the second strike in May.

RCZZ/Taiwan On 31MAY, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck approximately 70 mi/115 km northeast of Taipei. The quake was measured at a depth of about 150 mi/240 km. There were no reports of damage, and no tsunami warning was issued.

UKZZ/Ukraine On 29MAY, attacks by pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine, violating the ceasefire signed in February 2015, killed five Ukrainian military officers and wounded four others. The latest attacks follow a 24 May report released by Ukrainian authorities, stating seven soldiers were killed on that day, making it the deadliest day for Ukrainian forces since August last year.

KZZZ/USA The State Dept has issued a warning to arriving travellers this summer to make sure that they have all necessary documents to enter the United States – there have been multiple changes to the rules this year (see Active Bulletins below for more on this).

View the full International Bulletin 01JUN2016