

# Midweek Briefing 04MAY: New US CBP Airport, Iceland ATC Strike continues

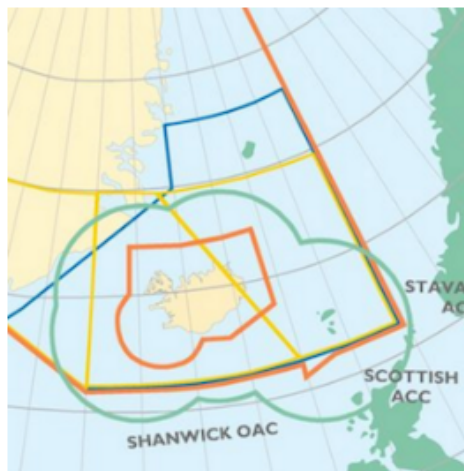
Cynthia Claros  
4 May, 2016

## INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

ISSUED BY FLIGHT SERVICE BUREAU

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**New US CBP Airport** 04MAY A new US Customs facility opened in KMTH/Marathon on 20APR, to facilitate increased traffic to Cuba. [Read the article.](#)

**Iceland ATC Strike continues** 04MAY Icelandic controllers are in a pay dispute with Isavia, leading to multiple strike actions at BIKF/Keflavik and BIRK/Reykjavik. Last week BIKF was closed overnight at short notice. [Read the article.](#)

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**EHAM/Amsterdam** and other Dutch airports will observe a two minute silence on ATC frequencies today, 04MAY, from 1800-1803Z. ATC will arrange traffic flow so that no aircraft will land or taxi during this period, meaning likely delays, albeit for a short period.

**SECU/Cuenca, Ecuador** remains closed after an E190 slid off the main runway on 29APR, latest estimate is no reopening before 06MAY.

**CZZZ/Canada** Visa-exempt foreign nationals can enter and exit Canada by air without an Electronic Travel Authorization until 29SEP2016. After that date, these travelers will need to obtain online authorization to visit.

**BIZZ/Iceland** Multiple ATC Strike actions for BIRK and BIKF are ongoing, check NOTAMS and with handler for latest. **Read article.**

**TFFR/Guadeloupe** has ongoing main runway closures due to WIP, current shown are 04MAY 0200-1015Z, 17MAY 1000Z- 18MAY 1600Z. Only helicopters will be allowed to operate during these periods.

**UIBB/Bratsk** has a fuel shortage until 31MAY, non-scheduled movements are by PPR only.

**NWWW/Tontouta** has an ATC staff shortage and requires slots for arrival until 31MAY, Tel +687 352437. Work on 11/29 is also ongoing, check NOTAMS for any current outages, which will close the airport.

**EGGX/Shanwick** is trialling transferring westbound flights direct to a HF frequency rather than via an initial VHF frequency, using CPDLC. The default frequencies will be HF 5649 H24, 2872 0000-0900 and 1800-2400, and 8879 0900-2100.

**PAZA/Anchorage** has published new procedures Eff 28APR for User Preferred Routes within the PAZA FIR, refer A0075/16.

**SVZZ/Venezuela** changed timezones on 01MAY to UTC-4. In addition, all public offices, including public ministries, will only operate on Mondays and Tuesdays until further notice.

**TTZP/Piarco FIR** is trialing ADS-C and CPDLC with ident TTZP until 31MAY. Flights entering the FIR east of 57W should log on 15 minutes prior to the boundary with TTZP.

**UHSS/Yuzhno** has advised that B777 aircraft are limited to 310T during the summer period.

**UIAA/Chita** is only available as alternate for one specific airline (Aurora) between 0930-2100Z. Outside these times ops normal.

**WSZZ/Singapore** has introduced a fingerprint clearance system to verify the thumbprints of arriving and departing travelers ages six and above at select immigration checkpoints. The system will be progressively implemented starting at the manned immigration counters of sea and land checkpoints, followed by air checkpoints until full implementation is completed in the months ahead. Travelers should be prepared for slightly longer immigration clearance times at manned checkpoints, especially during the initial implementation stage of the project.

**YZZZ/Australia** Border Force employees have been banned from taking industrial action at airports for three months; the threat of ongoing strike action caused much concern for operations in March.

**RJTT/Haneda** the airport authority has changed the number of slots available for general aviation aircraft. Effective 25APR, slots for GA during the daytime (0600-2259 local) will be increased to 16 total for arrival and departure (from eight in the past). Note that there are no slots restrictions for night time operations (2300-0559 local).

**CYVR/Vancouver** will have one of its main runways 08R/26L closed nightly between the hours of 05-13Z 08MAY-02SEPT for construction. During the day (13-05Z) the runway will have the ILS on 08R/26L out of service, along with no approach lighting on runway 26L.

**SLZZ/Bolivia** Certain medications prescribed for personal use are treated as narcotics in Bolivia, with severe penalties for import or export without a valid prescription from a doctor; make sure you carry a letter from a doctor describing the medical condition and any prescribed drugs and that they are in their original containers and clearly labelled.

**EBBR/Brussels** has partially reopened the departure hall, which has remained closed since 22MAR. 110 Check-in counters will be open in the airport departure hall along with an additional 36 counters that are housed in temporary buildings. The EBBR airport authority expects this will bring the airport up to 80% of capacity.

**EZZZ/Europe** Bulgaria, Turkey and Romania will begin a project to interface their ATC systems so they can handle a significant build-up of airspace traffic in the Black Sea area. New routes are expected by mid 2016.

**LEZZ/Spain** The Spanish F1 Grand Prix is being held from 13MAY-15MAY and will bring heavier than normal traffic to LEBL/Barcelona and LEGE/Girona.

**HEZZ/Egypt** Individual travellers will in the future require a visa before entering Egypt. The exact date of the implementation of this rule is not yet determined. The visa must be applied for from the Egyptian embassy and the consulate generals before departure.

**GVZZ/Cape Verde** Aviation officials issued a statement announcing that national airports are open and operational. The statement was released following reports that flight operations had been suspended at the country's airports.

**ORZZ/Iraq** Iran canceled all flights to Baghdad following a breach of the International Area by protesters on 30APR. The demonstrations have caused problems for pilgrimage flights to Baghdad, and those flights will operate instead to ORNI/Najaf.

**VIDP/Delhi** has opened a new ATC tower (which is the country's tallest at 60 metres). VIDP will also be starting construction on a 4th runway this year and is expected to be completed by 2018 which will increase the airport arrival rate to 105 landings an hour, and will mitigate the common airborne holding.

View the full International Bulletin for 04MAY 2016

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## MHTG 'Interesting Approaches' to end, Greeks or Italians? ATC strikes:

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**MHTG 'Interesting Approaches' to end** 06APR MHTG/Tegucigalpa Dangerous approaches at MHTG will be consigned to history, as a new airport was finally confirmed at the weekend by the Honduran government. **Read the full article.**

**Greeks or Italians? ATC strikes this week** 06APR There will be an ATC strike this week in Europe, maybe by Greece, maybe by Italy, maybe by both. These strikes are often cancelled shortly before starting, but at this pre-planning stage, it seems likely to go ahead. **Read the full article.**

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**EBBR/Brussels** has now reopened but operations are still very restricted. The airport is not expected to be fully operational until June or July by current estimates. The airport authority has instituted new security measures that include a requirement for passengers to arrive 3 hours prior to their departure time. The terminal is still closed to busses and trains. Slots must still be requested from the Brussels Airport Authority if you intend to operate in or out of EBBR.

**ZKPY/Pyongyang FIR** Many reports that North Korea is jamming GPS signals, also reported by South Korea RKRR NOTAM A0450/16. Signals have been reported as unreliable or lost when operating in or near to North Korean airspace. Exercise caution if you rely on GPS in those areas. Read our DPRK Overflight Risk article from a few weeks ago.

**LIZZ/Italy Eurocontrol** has confirmed an Italian ATC strike is set for April 9th. NOTAMS A2062/16A2 and A2063/16A2 have been issued covering the proposed strike.

**MHTG/Tegucigalpa** Dangerous approaches at MHTG will be consigned to history, as a new airport was finally confirmed at the weekend by the Honduran government. Full article [here](#).

**LFXX/France** an Operational Trial of CPDLC Services in French Airspace of Reims (LFEE), Paris (LFFF) and Marseille (LFMM) ACC will be in effect from 05APR to 11APR.

**EZZZ/Europe** The U.S. State Department along with numerous other countries have issued a Europe wide travel warning in response to the attack in Brussels. While extra vigilance should be exercised it is also a very generic response to a threat that has yet to be fully understood from a commercial aviation perspective. If you would like to be kept up to date on specific travel alerts from the U.S. State Department you can sign up through their STEP program.

**EHAM/Amsterdam** reports of near misses with drones have recently been reported by crews. The location of the near misses was on the approach path but no specific runway was mentioned.

**KEWR/Newark** The FAA will be increasing the number of available slots to EWR, available at the end of October. The change is in response to the improved efficiency of the airport and the ability to increase the ATC arrival rate.

**FAA/United States** has issued Advisory Circular 00-30C. It describes the various types of CAT (Clear Air Turbulence) along with avoidance techniques and possible future forecast systems for helping Dispatchers and Pilots in the planning stages.

**KZZZ/USA** Check your passport! Effective 01APR16, if you're travelling to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, you will also need to have a valid **e-Passport** along with your ESTA.

**CZVR/Vancouver** ACC will begin to use ADS-C on 18APR In their Oceanic sectors, for both alerting service (SAR) and improved ATC separation purposes.

**UDDD/Yerevan FIR** Due to Air Defence activity ATC route segments with Yerevan FIR Crossing FIR boundary points MATAL, ELSIV, PEMAN and VETEN between Yerevan FIR and Baku FIR are not available.

**UBBA/Baku FIR** Entry/Exit points VETEN, PEMAN, ELSIV, MATAL are closed.  
Baku FIR Entry/Exit points BARAD, DISKA closed from GND to FL305.

NOTAMS A0030/16 and A0032/16 have been issued as well.

**UHSS/Yuzhno** will be closed daily 10APR-14MAY between the hours of 12-21Z.

**OMZZ/United Arab Emirates** will begin charging a \$9.50 USD Passenger Tax effective 30JUN, to be imposed on all travellers over the age of 2 through all airports including those only transiting the UAE. A driving factor in this new charge appears to be low oil prices affecting the Gulf States.

**UUZZ/Russia** has stated that aviation authorities are intensifying its ramp inspections of all aircraft (especially foreign aircraft, we guess) in the wake of the Rostov accident.

**FZZZ/Nigeria** The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has stated that steps are currently being taken to end the countries fuel shortage, but may take upwards of 2 months. We suggest to check with local handlers for the availability aviation fuel supply until the issue is resolved.

**VNKT/Kathmandu** We have received some reports that VNKT ATC weather reports are inaccurate, especially regarding visibility. Any feedback please let us know.

**VIAR/Amritsar** has suspended all night operations for 1 year due to the planned reconstruction of the airports runways.

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