

Agenda item 15 – Approval of Resolution urging member airports to take measures to protect themselves from unwanted drones

The Resolution below has been approved by the Governing Board and is submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

Action by the General Assembly

The General Assembly is invited to approve the Resolution, as follows:

RESOLUTION No. 3

The Twenty-ninth ACI World Annual General Assembly:

Noting that the reported drone sightings at London Gatwick Airport in December 2018 and at London Heathrow Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport, resulting in temporary or partial cessation of operations, were only the most widely-publicised of a series of incidents which have created major and costly disruption;

Noting that avoidance of risks to the safety of aircraft is the top concern when a drone is sighted, but preparations can be made for such eventualities in coordination with national and local authorities;

Noting that the best approach to preparing for and dealing with drone-related issues is to create a plan and be ready to execute it;

Noting that National authorities and local law enforcement agencies should be the authority in addressing both preparation and enforcement of anti-drone measures;

Resolves to:

- a) Requests all industry stakeholders to work with the relevant governmental agencies and authorities to act to protect the safety of aircraft operations;
- b) Suggests that airport operators:
 - Coordinate with national authorities on the boundaries of “No Drone Zones” to be established on and in the vicinity of the airport, especially approach and take-off flight paths.
 - Coordinate with authorities on regulations governing the operation of drones in the vicinity of the airport.

¹ anti-drone measures include:

- a) Surveillance/detection systems and procedures, and
- b) Suppression/neutralization systems and procedures

- Coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and national authorities to ensure the integrity of “No Drone Zones” once they are established.
 - Coordinate with national authorities and obtaining guidance on the requirements for airports to implement anti-drone technologies. The requirements for airports to implement such anti-drone technologies should be based on a risk and impact assessment considering local conditions and operational requirements.
 - Assess the security risks associated with the malicious use of drones as part of the airport Security Risk Assessment. The assessment should also take into account different possible motivations for unlawful drone use including terrorism, activism, espionage, etc.
 - Clarify with the national authorities on the roles and responsibilities of the airport operator, national authorities, local law enforcement, airlines, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and other stakeholders regarding the various possible mitigations to unlawful use of drones in an airport environment;
 - In the event that drones are detected, establish means to suppress/neutralize unauthorized drones within the airport boundary especially adjacent to runways and flight paths.
 - Ensure that any new anti-drone measures do not create unintended safety hazards and unmitigated risks to other manned aircraft, authorized drones and aviation infrastructures. There are numerous organizations developing and marketing technologies that claim capabilities to detect and disable drones, but airport operators are advised to be vigilant in assessing these technologies and to apply Safety Management System assessment practices before introducing them to their operations.
 - Conduct joint assessments with ANSP, Aircraft operators, national authorities and other law enforcement agencies as early as practicable to assess the emerging situation in the event of drone(s) intrusion. Suspension, continuation or restoration of aircraft operations should be a joint decision based on the outcome of the assessment or as per guidelines provided by the national authority, if available.
- c) Suggests that airport operators, in conjunction with other stakeholders, establish a Concept of Operations and Standard Operating Procedure for anti-drone measures at their airport, based on advice from the national authorities, including but not limited to:
- Roles and responsibilities of various agencies (including internal airport departments);

- Risk index based on the location and size of the drone(s) identified;
 - Operational impact and safety risks associated with suspending aircraft operations;
 - Contact details and Coordination procedures.
 - any possible negative impact that the specific technology or system will have on other airport systems and the entire aviation system, with means to mitigate them;
 - Regular reviews of the effectiveness of the anti-drone measures, based on local and or international rulemaking and the evolution of anti-drone technologies.
 - Means to verify that a reported sighting of drones is a potential safety risk to aircraft operations and is not a false identification (lights, helicopters, etc.).
- d) As additional good practice, the airport operator may:
- Establish procedures to identify drone activities in the vicinity of the airport or adjacent to the “No Drone Zones” and maintain a record of them for trend analysis and to initiate proactive measures. This may include sightings from pilots, Air Traffic Control (ATC), security patrols, general public, neighbouring communities, aircraft spotters, etc.
 - Where an airport operator uses drones for surveillance or other activities a system should be in place to notify this activity to prevent spurious sightings being reported.
 - Work closely with subject matter experts from national authorities on drone suppression and neutralization.
 - Provide training to airport operational personnel on applicable airport policies and procedures to the operation of authorized and unauthorized drones.
 - If practicable, coordinate with local drone industry experts and manufacturers to understand the latest developments, trends and nuances of the drone industry and anti-drone measures.
- e) Requests members to share with ACI their experience and lessons learnt on anti-drone measures and drone related incidents so that relevant practices can be adopted across the industry.

END