



Safety Reminder Message

- **Safety Subject:** Distance to Touchdown
 - **Origin:** European airlines
 - **Date:** 06/08/2008
 - **Distribution:** Aviation Safety Professionals
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SYNOPSIS

- EUROCONTROL Agency has been informed by some European airlines, through EUROCONTROL mechanism of voluntary ATM incident reporting EVAIR, of number of occurrences concerning providing distance to touchdown (DTD) information to aircraft being vectored for pilot-interpreted final approach aid.

ANALYSIS

- Distance to touchdown information enables pilots to manage their descent profile and energy/fuel efficiency. This is especially important when there is a deviation from the STARs during vectoring and cleared shortcuts.
- Pilots expect accuracy of estimated DTD to increase as distance to go reduces.
- Unexpected reduction in DTD can cause problems with energy management and an overly 'ambitious' offer might encourage some crews to 'can-do' themselves into an overload situation.
- Significant increase in DTD requires early reduction in Rate of Descent (ROD) to avoid longer maintenance of the assigned altitude (level flight).
- Crews expect that significant changes to DTD are advised as soon as possible and if tactical assessments change and speed control cannot resolve matters solution to increase distance rather than reduce it.

ICAO PROVISIONS IN PANS-ATM (DOC 4444)

8.6.5.1 b) when an aircraft is given its initial vector diverting it from a previously assigned route, the pilot shall be informed what the vector is to accomplish, and the limit of the vector shall be specified (e.g. to ... position, for ... approach).

12.4 ATS SURVEILLANCE SERVICE PHRASEOLOGIES

12.4.2.2 VECTORIZING FOR ILS AND OTHER PILOT-INTERPRETED AIDS

b) YOU WILL INTERCEPT (radio aid or track) (distance) FROM (significant point or TOUCHDOWN).

LOCAL PROVISIONS

- It should be noted that, in case a State decides not to implement the provisions of PANS-ATM, any *significant* difference between the procedures used in a State and the ICAO provisions should be published in the national AIP.

YOUR ATTENTION IS REQUIRED

- Note the subject and investigate the relevance in your operational environment.
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