

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
OPPOSITE SAFDERJUNG AIRPORT, NEW DELHI.**

No. 7/253/2008-IR

Dated: 6th August, 2008

AIR TRANSPORT CIRCULAR NO. 01/2008

Subject : Operation of relief flights or change in the routing of overflights of scheduled foreign airlines.

There are occasions when scheduled foreign airlines are required to operate relief flights to India to cover the aircraft-on-ground (AOG) situations. These relief flights are operated for the purpose of carrying the stranded passengers or for ferrying the engine or spare parts for the grounded aircraft. Moreover, sometimes the routing of the scheduled flights overflying India or the type of aircraft deployed on such flights is changed. More often than not, such changes are made at the eleventh hour due to technical or operational reasons. The problem gets further accentuated when the need for operation of the relief flight or changes in the scheduled overflights arises outside the office hours.

2. At present, specific approval of this office is required for changes in the scheduled overflights or operation of relief flights. Although such permissions are granted forthwith, difficulties are encountered by the airlines as well as this office, particularly on holidays and beyond the office hours.

3. The matter has been considered in the light of the above and it has been decided that in the event of an AOG situation, a scheduled foreign airline need not seek prior permission from this office for operation of the relief flight. Prior permission of this office may also not be required for change in the type of aircraft or routing of the overflights. The airlines may contact the Air Traffic Control (ATC) of the concerned airport who have been authorised to clear such flights.

4. However, the foreign airline shall send a written communication to DGCA at the first available opportunity, indicating the circumstances necessitating the operation of the relief flight or change in the type of aircraft or routing of the overflight. In case of operation of a relief flight, it may also be clearly stated in the letter to this office that no additional traffic rights have been exercised.

5. Although the ATC has been authorised to permit the operation of the relief flights as well as changes in overflights, the airlines are not precluded from approaching DGCA, as at present, provided sufficient time is available for seeking prior approval.

Sd/-
(K.P. Maggon)
Director of Regulations and Information
for Director General of Civil Aviation

To

Foreign airlines operating to/from/overflying India