

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT



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Reference: No.: संख्या : Av.22016/15/2002-FID
Dated: दिनांक : 4th August, 2005

भारत सरकार
नागर विमानन विभाग
महानिदेशक नागर विमानन का कार्यालय
सफदरजंग एयरपोर्ट के सामने
नई दिल्ली - ११० ००३

OPERATIONS CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 2005

SUBJECT: DESCENT TECHNIQUE

We have received complaints from many passengers regarding ear discomfort/distress while in flight during descend.

A cabin descend rate of about 300 feet is considered to be normal and is ideal for the human ear to adapt comfortably to the changes in cabin pressure and does not cause any or very little discomfort to the passenger. A higher descend rate causes pain as human ear is not able to adapt to the rapid change in cabin pressure.

It is therefore decided that operators should ensure that during normal operation, cabin rate during descend remains within 300 / 350 feet per minute by suitably modifying their Standard Operating Procedures/ Technique to avoid passenger discomfort during descend. It is also decided that FDR monitoring program shall include observance of the above requirements. The pilot should be informed of any exceedance / infringement during normal operations and be counselled accordingly.

A quarterly report of number of occurrences, if any, may be sent to this office.

(Capt. R.K. Datta)

Chief Flight Operations Inspector