

Immediate landing procedure

In aviation operations, non-normal procedures are usually based on the occurrence of a single failure. When multiple failures exist, these procedures can be contradictory. Airmanship is then required to assess the proper course of action.

IFALPA believes that an “immediate landing” procedure should be available to the flight crew, for instances such as incidents related to fire and/or smoke, and incidents with multiple failures, when the handling of all abnormal and emergency procedures is time-consuming and distracting, and therefore counterproductive.

An “immediate landing” procedure is already included in the Flight Operations Manual of a number of airlines worldwide. It has two aspects:

1. The call “Immediate Landing” gets the flight crew members in the same mindset of focusing on getting an aircraft on the ground as soon as possible (this is a process similar to the “Emergency Descent” call).
2. It prioritizes the action items to be dealt with and enables some non-normal procedures to be bypassed when they are not essential to an immediate safe landing, and provides the flight crew with an option to deviate from non-normal procedures or failure management when the overriding factor is getting the aircraft on the ground.

From an aircraft design viewpoint, there are two main requirements for such a procedure:

1. A means to ‘inhibit’ those cautions and related procedures not essential for safe accomplishment of an immediate landing.
2. A checklist enabling the aircraft to land safely within its performance requirements in the case of an immediate landing.