

08PRL15

IFALPA supports Transportation Safety Board RESA recommendations

Chertsey 13 Dec: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) wholeheartedly supports the recommendations made by The Transportation Safety Board of Canada concerning Runway End Safety Areas (RESA) dimensions in its report of its investigation into the overrun by an A340 operating flight AF358 at Toronto Pearson International Airport in August 2005.

In the report the Board calls for the 240m RESA recommended by ICAO Annex I4 or an Engineered Materials Arrestor System (EMAS) to be installed as an alternative if terrain does not permit a full size RESA.

"The Board is aware that requiring a 300 m RESA may affect many existing Code 4 runways that are located where natural obstacles, local development, and/or environmental constraints make the construction of a RESA of this length impracticable. The Board believes that there exists a requirement for an alternate means of compliance, such as the use of an engineered material arresting system to provide a level of safety that is equivalent to a 300 m RESA.

Therefore, the Board recommends that:

The Department of Transport require all Code 4 runways to have a 300 m runway end safety area (RESA) or a means of stopping aircraft that provides an equivalent level of safety."

IFALPA could not agree with this recommendation more. The Federation believes that the RESA recommendation set out in ICAO Annex I4 should be upgraded to a Standard since only a full size 240m RESA + 60m of runway strip beyond the threshold or RESA/EMAS combination provides adequate protection for passengers and crews of overrunning aircraft.

For more information concerning IFALPA's RESA position see the Federation's Position Statement 08POS01 available on the IFALPA website:

http://www.ifalpa.org/positionstatements/08POS01_Runway_End_Safety_Areas.pdf

Notes to Editors

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

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