

Safety of civil aircraft operating in the Tripoli Flight Information Region (FIR)

The Secretary General of ICAO has issued the following letter to States and Organizations regarding the Safety of civil aircraft operating in the Tripoli Flight Information Region (FIR).

1. I have the honour to address you as the appropriate State Authority of aircraft operator(s) which may use the Tripoli flight information region (FIR), as a matter of urgency.
2. A Government of Libya Cabinet Decision issued on 29 November 2014 and received by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on 12 January 2015 included provisions that all airports in Libya are closed to international flights with the exception of El Beida (Labraq, HLLQ), Tobruk, Zwara (HLZW) and Zentan. However, I was further informed that the difficulty in promulgating current information via notices to airmen (NOTAM) remains a concern.
3. The United States authorities have advised on developments that call into question the safety of operations in the central and western part of the Tripoli FIR, including Zwara and Zentan, but also on those ATS routes in the Tripoli FIR, north of the Libyan coastline. ICAO has also been informed about threats published on the World Wide Web that civilian or military aircraft from one State, which might enter Libyan airspace, will be shot down.
4. Taking into consideration the armed conflict situation in Libya, I draw your attention to the possible existence of serious risks to the safety of international civil flights operating within the Tripoli FIR.
5. You are therefore strongly urged to use this, and any other pertinent information, to assess flight safety risk in the Tripoli FIR and at airports of Libya. You are also encouraged to contact ICAO (Mr. Catalin Radu, Deputy Director, Aviation Safety, Air Navigation Bureau, by email at cradu@icao.int) to share any additional information you may receive regarding the threat and risk to safety and security of civil aviation.
6. ICAO will continue to monitor the situation and will notify any significant developments.