

Czech ALPA warns of potential for taxiway confusion at Prague Ruzyne (LKPR)

The Czech Air Line Pilot's Association has raised concerns over the potential for taxiway confusion at Prague Ruzyne (LKPR) airport. The concerns centre on the parallel taxiways 'A' and 'Z' which lead toward the holds for runway 24 (see Fig 1).

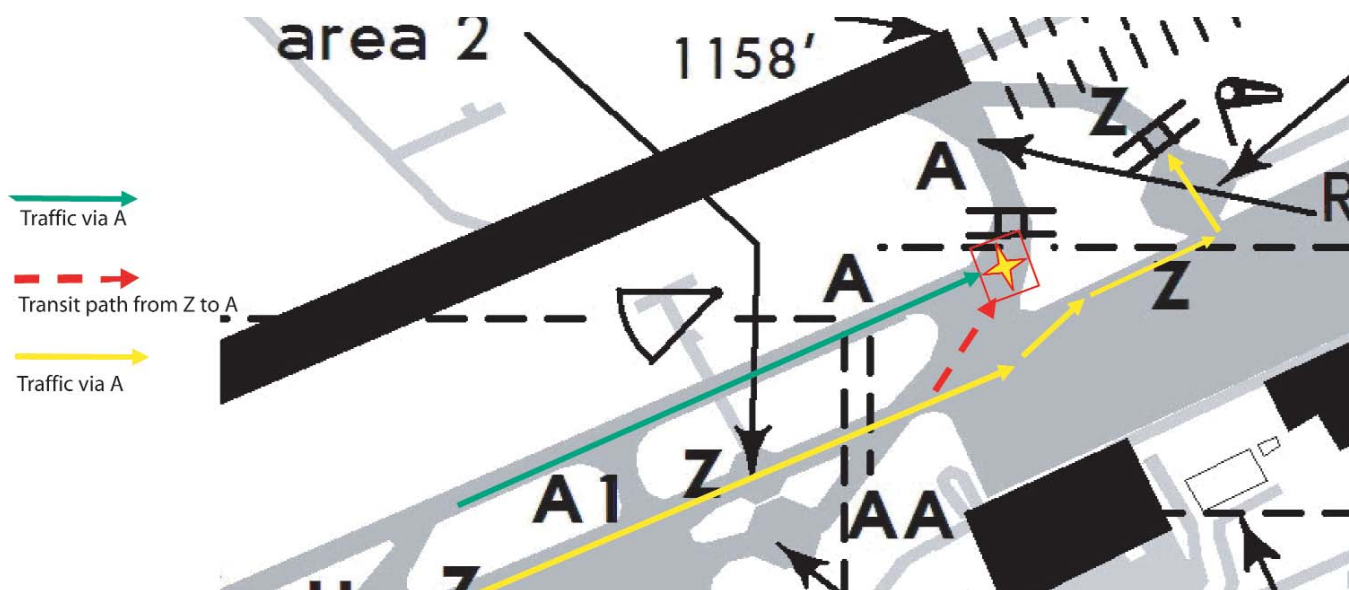
The intention of ATC is to use these taxiways to sequence departing traffic according to its assigned Standard Instrument Departure route (SID) and/or slot time. However the reality of the current situation is that most traffic is routed via 'A' and, in only a few cases, via 'Z'. The situation is further complicated by the fact that aircraft that are assigned taxiway 'Z' are crossed over to 'A' via an unnamed link taxiway adjacent to the Cargo apron (see yellow star in Fig1).

There have been a number of events recorded recently where aircraft have crossed into taxiway 'A' via the link without prior ATC clearance and thus elevating the risk of collision.

Furthermore ATC say that they plan to use both taxiways during winter operations especially when access to deicing area 1 is required further increasing the collision risk if there is a deviation from the assigned routing.

CZ-ALPA is working with the Local Runway Safety Team (LRST) to develop a standard taxi route system which should mitigate the risk of ground collision and, in addition, campaigning for the link taxiway to be given a designation which should reduce confusion further.

In the meantime, pilots are urged not to deviate from the taxi route they have been assigned and be extra vigilant in the area of the 'A', 'Z' and 'AA' junctions.



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