

Frankfurt/Main (EDDF) taxiway re-designation



During the night of 12/13 June Frankfurt/Main Airport (EDDF) will introduce a new designation system. The airport says that the aim of the re-designation programmes is help reduce the possibility of runway incursions.

IFALPA applauds this move since by and large the new taxiway system follows the taxiway designation logic called for by the Federation. This combined with the airport's use of perimeter taxiways and a design that has all Rapid Exit Taxiways (RETs) leading to a centre taxiway certainly reduces the threat of runway incursion. A threat which will be even further reduced if the end around taxiways Yankee, Romeo East and Sierra East are used to reduce the number of runway crossings.

There are a few anomalies compared with the IFALPA system which should be considered; the use of Mike as a taxiway designation at the western end of the 07/25 runway pair and to a lesser extent the inclusion of alpha numerics in the apron area. The Federation argues that these should be named to preserve the role of alpha numerics indicating a runway access point. These points aside IFALPA congratulates Frankfurt/Main for this ambitious project which will bring safety benefits.

Naturally such a major undertaking may encounter delays and the airport has warned that the planned installation date 12/13 June may not be met in this case the airport has planned 19/20 June or 26/27 June as alternate implementation dates. The actual date for implementation will be published in a NOTAM on 12 June.

Safety Considerations

 Once the new designations are in place the airport anticipates delays caused by unfamiliarity with the new designations and will do everything possible to reduce the potential for delay, for example greater use of "Follow Me" vehicles

 As always pilots should maintain extra vigilance when ever near an active runway and employ all means to increase the visibility of their aircraft including the use of external lights when crossing any runway (*see 09AGEBL01 in the Airport Issues section of the Briefing Leaflets page of the IFALPA website*).

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