

Safety of Civil Aircraft Operating in Baghdad, Damascus and Tehran FIRs

The Secretary General of ICAO has issued the following [letter](#) to States and Organizations regarding the Safety of Civil Aircraft Operating in Baghdad, Damascus and Tehran FIRs.

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to address you as the appropriate State Authority of aircraft operator(s) which may use the airspace of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, and the Syrian Arab Republic.
2. Taking into consideration the armed conflict that is currently taking place in the Syrian Arab Republic (ICAO State letter AN 13/4.3.Open-13/25 dated 22 March 2013 refers), I draw your attention to the possible existence of serious risks to the safety of international civil flights operating within portions of the Baghdad, Damascus and Tehran flight information regions (FIRs).
3. Information received by ICAO from certain States, and a report originating from an operator, indicate that missile activity, without the normal promulgation of appropriate aeronautical information, may exist within portions of the Tehran FIR. In addition, unsubstantiated reports in the public media would suggest that missile firings originated from the Caspian Sea were directed at targets in the Syrian Arab Republic.
4. It has also come to my attention that some operators took the decision, based on their assessments of the level of risk involved, to use alternate routings during and immediately after the timeframe of the reported missile activity. Should operators elect further use of alternative routings in the future, an increase in the level of traffic on these alternative routings is expected to have some impact on the overall capacity of the system.
5. ICAO continues to actively coordinate with the authorities concerned and other States in the region as regards developments as they unfold, specifically those which could impact flight safety.
6. ICAO will continue to monitor the situation and I will notify you of any significant developments.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Issued under the authority of the Secretary General, Dr. Fang Liu