

CertAlert

DOT/Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Region Airports Division,
Airport Certification Safety Team (ASO-620), P.O. Box 20636, Atlanta, Georgia 30320
(404) 305-6700; FAX: (404) 305-6730

Issued: November 16, 2007

Number SO-08-01

This CertAlert pertains to:
All Airport Operators

FAA Adopts ICAO Definition for Runway Incursions

Effective October 1, 2007, the FAA will use the definition for a runway incursion that has been adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The FAA helped ICAO come up with its definition, which was adopted in November 2005. Before that definition was developed, countries around the world used at least 20 different definitions for a runway incursion.

The new definition is: **Runway Incursion - Any occurrence at an aerodrome involving the incorrect presence of an aircraft, vehicle or person on the protected area of a surface designated for the landing and take-off of aircraft.**

The FAA is making the change so the worldwide aviation community will have a single runway incursion definition, which in turn could help in the search to determine common factors that contribute to these incidents.

The new definition means that some incidents formerly classified as surface incidents will now be classified as C or D category runway incursions, which are low-risk incidents with ample time and/or distance to avoid a collision. The FAA has always tracked surface incidents, in addition to runway incursions. The new definition simply means that certain less severe incidents will be classified differently. All incidents tracked in the past will continue to be tracked.

The classification of the most serious kinds of runway incursions, Categories A and B, remains unchanged.