



NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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ALL OPERATORS LETTER (AOL 085R)

CIRCULAR REF: NCAA/DAWS/AD.1104/AOL085R/Vol.1
DATE: 24th July 2023
TO: All Airlines, Aircraft Operators and Aviation Fuel Suppliers
FROM: Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority
ATTN: Quality Manager/Director of Maintenance/Flight Operations
SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REFUELLING ISSUES AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

BACKGROUND

One of the most important topics in aviation safety is aircraft refuelling safety procedures and precautions. It is the ground handling operation with the highest risk factor as compared to other operations. There have been many flight accidents in history caused by fuel contamination resulting in abnormal operation of jet engines. Water, is a major contaminant amongst others.

In the recent times, the NCAA has been receiving mandatory occurrence reports from airlines with issues related to water being found in the aircraft fuel tank of the aircraft. Of recent is a report of a significant amount of water drained from the fuel tank of a Boeing 737 aircraft that had a fuel indication and gauge malfunction in-flight.

NCAA'S DETERMINATION

The NCAA considers it necessary that knowledge of the potential risks and hazards associated with aircraft refuelling and how to mitigate them is important for any person involved in aircraft ground handling.

Due to procedures being inadequate or not followed, NCAA has made a determination of the urgent need for airlines, aircraft operators and aviation fuel suppliers to improve their refuelling procedures as documented in their Maintenance Control Manual/Refuelling Manual and the fuel suppliers Operations Manual/Quality Control Manual. These procedures include:

- (1) Inspection of Aircraft Refuelling Equipment by ground staff and the inspection is a walkaround of the equipment with a visual inspection of fuel hose, gauges, tires and the overall body of the truck.
- (2) Testing/Checking Jet fuel quality before Refuelling by ground staff; with the primary concern being the presence of water in fuel.

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- (3) It is mandatory that aviation fuel supplier personnel take sample fuel from the fuelling truck before refuelling with the samples disposed off at a time to be determined by airlines, aircraft operator and aviation fuel supplier.
- (4) Airlines and aircraft operators shall ensure that the aircraft fuel tanks are maintained properly to mitigate the risk of excessive water accumulation and microbiological contamination following their maintenance program.

APPLICABILITY

This AOL is revised and is applicable to all airlines, aircraft operators and aviation fuel suppliers operating in Nigeria.

ACTION REQUIRED

All airlines and Aviation fuel suppliers are hereby required to comply as follows:

- 1) Amendment Refuelling Manual, Aviation Fuel Operations Manual/Quality Control Manual and submit for the approval/acceptance of the NCAA within Sixty (60) days from date of issue of the AOL085 if the procedures above is not already included.
- 2) Ensure that the ground personnel are trained on these amended procedures.
- 3) Ensure strict compliance with it.

Please comply accordingly.



Engr. Gbolahan Abatan
Director, Airworthiness Standards
For: Director General of Civil Aviation