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AVIATION SAFETY ADVISORY CIRCULAR 03/2024

Sub: Increase in number of fire incidents at operational/terminal buildings of AAI Airports

1. INTRODUCTION

The operational buildings, control tower and terminal buildings of an airport are considered as vital installations and play an important role in safe and efficient civil aviation organisation. Fire in a terminal building can create chaos and may result in casualty and/or flight disruption at an airport. On the other hand, fire in operational buildings housing Air Traffic services units or navigational equipment can result in contingency situation not only at airports but also for aeroplanes in air.

Recent occurrences of building fires at some of the international and domestic airports raises a concern about the maintenance and operation of fire prevention equipment, preparedness to deal with contingency situation and storage the material prone to catch fire at places within operational buildings.

2. PURPOSE

This advisory circular (AC) provides information to the aviation community, particularly to Airport operation authorities managing the airports and ATS facilities owned and operated by the Airports Authority of India. In addition, this AC provides guidance to Airport operators and reflects current guidance for fire prevention and control. The circular may not cite the entire process of fire prevention and control as specified in different centre and state fire regulation but will serve as a reminder to have compliance in place with the state fire safety norms in which the airport/ATS facility is situated.

This AC is issued in serious response to the significant increase of building fires at ATS centres and terminal buildings.

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3. CANCELLATION

Nil

4. SCOPE & RESPONSIBILITY

This Circular is applicable to all AAI officials working at Airports (including civil enclaves) and ATS locations.

5. AUTHORITY

Though the fire incidents at terminal buildings and ATS centres are not directly in the scope of Aviation Safety but owing to the very nature to disrupt the civil aviation, it is pertinent to advise the stake holders to take due care of the prevention and control. The Directorate of Aviation Safety AAI is mandated to implement the Safety Management System in AAI domain of aviation operation and issue directives for enhancement of safety, its reporting, analysis, mitigation and control with the help of service provider directorates within AAI.

6. NOTIFICATIONS & REPORTING

Fires at work can be devastating. They pose a risk not only to the life of people engaged in civil aviation inside the building but also to the machines and vital facilities essential for civil aviation. Workplace or building fires also affect the general public. This is why preventing fires at the workplace is crucial.

To keep oneself safe from building or office fires, make sure to check off all the items on the fire checklist prepared at your station including the below items. The list is only representative and not exhaustive in nature.

- Remove office fire hazards like faulty outlets, Packaging materials, old computers/machines, fraying electrical cords, and overloaded sockets.
- Keep the office open and well-ventilated.
- Make sure smoke alarms on all floors are tested and working.
- Promote fire safety by ensuring your entire staff including any contractual staff attends and participates in fire drills.
- Know where the maintenance staff keeps the fire extinguishers and how to use them.

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- Keep the inside of the office as a no-smoking zone.
- Display emergency hotlines numbers at prominent place.
- Unplug idle appliances like coffee makers and microwaves when nobody is using them.

While fires may be unpredictable and destructive, they are also highly preventable. By practicing fire safety and prevention at workplace, every employee of AAI can contribute to a safe environment and no disruption of civil aviation on account of fire.

All employees engaged in Airport operation and Air Traffic Service (ATS) provision to immediately report fire services in timely manner as per local SOP set for the purpose.

To minimize risk of loss of life, damage to property and flight disruption, it is essential that all AAI employees engaged in Airport operation and Air Traffic Service (ATS) provision are aware of fire reporting and trained in basic fire-fighting rescue operation.

7. CLARIFICATION

Clarification to this circular may be requested from the Executive Director (Aviation Safety) by sending an E-mail to edas@aaai.aero or by post to the following address;

The Executive Director
Directorate of Aviation Safety
Airports Authority of India
Room No A-222 Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan
Safdarjung Airport New Delhi 110003

8. REFERENCES

Here are some useful reference for further information and reading.

- [National building code 2016](#)
- [Director General of Fire services, Civil Defence & Home guards.](#)
- [Fire protection and fire safety requirements chapter 7 Ministry of Home.](#)

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9. VALIDITY

This aviation Safety Advisory Circular 03/2024 will remain in force until further notice.



(Anil Kumar Meena)

Executive Director (Aviation Safety)

Distribution: - As per standard list

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