

Information for Flight Crew

# Overseas Territories Ramp Check Programme

The purpose and conduct of ramp checks

**ASSI Information Leaflet No 2 issued September 2008**

## **The purpose and conduct of the checks**

ASSI and the UK Overseas Territories Aviation Authorities check aircraft operating into and out of airports in the UK Overseas Territories. These are known as Ramp Checks. Aircraft to be checked are generally selected at random, except where either:

- a) information has been received that there may be problems with a particular aircraft or operator; or
- b) deficiencies were found during a previous ramp check, in which case the Inspectors will ensure that any corrective action has been completed.

We do these checks to ensure that aircraft operating in the Territory comply with the legislation, requirements and international rules which apply to aircraft operating in the Overseas Territories.

We will always attempt to cause you minimum inconvenience when undertaking the checks. Unless serious deficiencies are revealed regarding the safe operation of the aircraft, the aim is to complete the check within your planned turn-round time, and not to delay an aircraft because of an inspection under this programme.

## **Inspectors' personal identification and legal credential**

ASSI Inspectors all carry appropriate personal identification, along with legal credentials. These credentials, which designate the holder as an 'authorised person' under the legislation, are small purple cards. You are entitled to ask for, and review, these credentials before the check is undertaken.

**Please Note: You do not have the legal right to refuse a ramp check while your aircraft is in an Overseas Territory, no matter where your aircraft is registered.**

This is because Articles 19, 117 and 119 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2007, gives the Inspectors ('authorised persons') the power to inspect your aircraft and operational records and this aspect of the law applies to any aircraft operating in a Territory. An 'authorised person' also has the right to prevent you from flying if they believe that your flight may be in breach of the law.

## **Extent of the checks**

The checks will cover the following key elements:

- a general review of the condition of the aircraft and its equipment
- a review of the documentation which you are required to carry on board the aircraft, including:
  - Registration and airworthiness certificates, and the insurance and operating certificates where appropriate
  - Flight and Ops Manuals
  - Checklists
  - Charts
  - Foreign Operator Permit (where appropriate)
  - Your pilot's licence
  - Journey log books
- an inspection of the aircraft and equipment, which will include:
  - safety equipment
  - cabin areas
  - aircraft exterior, including control and flying surfaces, wheels and tyres
  - cargo/baggage areas

The Inspectors carry a detailed checklist which they can show you on request.

## The ramp check records

The completed checklist is submitted to ASSI in the UK, for entry on to a database operated by the European Aviation Safety Authority as part of the Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) programme. The database is accessible to all European regulatory authorities, and the authorities responsible for the Caribbean and Atlantic Territories of UK, France and The Netherlands. For further details of the SAFA programme, see:

**<http://www.easa.eu.int/home/safa.html>**

In certain circumstances, where deficiencies are identified, these will be reported to your national regulatory authority for follow up. Similarly, some of the deficiencies identified are passed to the aircraft operator. What, if any, further action is to be taken will be explained to you by the Inspectors.

## Complaints

If you believe that the ramp check has been mishandled by our staff, and you cannot resolve your concern with the Inspectors, then you can contact senior ASSI management as follows:

Margaret Wilson  
**Manager Caribbean**  
Air Safety Support International  
PMB 2109  
PO Box 3252  
Road Town  
Tortola  
British Virgin Islands

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