

Notice No.

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Update – Suspension B737-8 and -9 MAX Aircraft



Following the accident of an Ethiopian airlines Boeing Model 737-8 MAX aircraft on 10th March 2019 and an earlier accident involving a Lion Air aircraft of the same model on 29th October 2018, the Bermuda Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA) on 12th March 2019 issued Awn-01-19, which suspended the Certificate of Airworthiness for the B737-8 and -9 MAX aircraft. In addition, BCAA on 12th March 2019 issued a Direction under Article 68 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013, prohibiting the flights of Boeing 737-8 and Boeing 737-9 MAX aircraft in the airspace of Bermuda.

After a collaborative approach over a period of 20 months, the major authorities, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States, Transport Canada (TCCA), the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Brazilian National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC) have indicated their confidence to declare the aircraft safe to fly again. As BCAA Aircraft Registry requirements permit acceptance of these major authority's aircraft certification standards, each of the relevant certifying authorities will need to have addressed the deficiencies identified, either through their own airworthiness and operational directives, or through full adoption of the FAA required measures, prior to BCAA lifting its restrictions.

Having considered the Boeing and FAA investigation of accident causation, its recommendations and those mandatory actions taken and proposed by other authorities, BCAA anticipates that restoration of certificates of airworthiness for aircraft on the Bermuda Aircraft Register will not require further local airworthiness directive action by BCAA.

As BCAA issued an airspace restriction to prohibit any B737 MAX from operating in Bermuda airspace, this restriction will need to be revoked before the Boeing 737-8 and -9 MAX can operate to/from Bermuda. BCAA is continuing to consult with various stakeholders and as safeguards are now in place, it is anticipated that the ban will be lifted in the near term.

Christopher Pearce
Acting Director General