

MEDIA RELEASE

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SA Civil Aviation Authority statement on precautionary safety measures by airlines

Johannesburg: The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) can confirm that as part of its day-to-day aviation safety and security oversight activities, it most recently, conducted an inspection at South African Airways Technical (SAAT), an approved aircraft maintenance organisation.

During the audit, the SACAA sampled a few aircraft, which were subsequently issued with a prohibition order, meaning these aircraft could not operate until such time they had addressed the non-compliances.

South African Airways Technical has since submitted a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the SACAA aimed at addressing the irregularities. The Corrective Action Plan was found to be acceptable by the SACAA.

The SACAA has been in communication with the concerned approval-holders, i.e. South African Airways Technical, Mango, Comair and South African Airways, and directed them to conduct a verification exercise on their fleet to ensure that the identified irregularities were not prevalent in the entire fleet.

If any of the aircraft is deemed not to be safe to fly, then the operator is expected to correct any non-conformities and ensure that the affected aircraft are not flown before the necessary corrective measures are undertaken.

The SACAA has since noted that operators have taken precautionary measures and undertaken what is normally referred to as 'self-grounding', to enable them to conduct verification that their aircraft are safe to fly. The airlines are expected to provide assurance to the Regulator that all aircraft that are released back to service meet the regulatory requirements.

The SACAA appreciates the seriousness by which the airlines have taken the concerns and believes this cooperation goes a long way in ensuring continued safety and security of civil aviation in South Africa.

The Regulator will continue to work closely with all the approval-holders until the deficiencies have been attended to and the 'self-grounded' aircraft are deemed safe to fly.

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About the SACAA:

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is a Schedule 3A public entity reporting to the Department of Transport established in terms of the Civil Aviation Authority Act, 2009 (Act No 13 of 2009) (the Act). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards. The SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board.

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