



MEDIA RELEASE

FRIDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2007

THE SA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY GROUNDS NATIONWIDE AIRCRAFT

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is hereby announcing that with effect from midnight, 29 November 2007, the approval for the Nationwide Aircraft Maintenance Organization (AMO) has been suspended in terms of Part 145 of the Civil Aviation Regulations. This action has been necessitated by the inability of the AMO to demonstrate full compliance with the applicable Civil Aviation Regulations of 1997 as amended and thereby is unable to guarantee continued safety to an acceptable or required level.

Furthermore, the SACAA also confirms the suspension of the Certificates of Airworthiness of aircraft maintained by the AMO in terms of Part 21, effective midnight 29 November 2007. As a result of this action the aircraft that constitute the Nationwide air fleet will not be permitted to undertake any further flights until their airworthiness status has been verified.

The SACAA would like to assure the public that the above decision was reached after the SACAA conducted a rigorous audit of the AMO in an effort to confirm its compliance with applicable regulations. The AMO was unable to satisfy the Authority of its capability to continue maintaining the aircraft to a standard commensurate with the requirement of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CARs).

The regulations require that the AMO maintain the aircraft in accordance with the manufacturers' requirements and any other requirement imposed by the South African Regulations which would be consistent with International Best Practice.

The decision was taken by SACAA in the interest of continued aviation safety in the country. Whilst this will result in an inconvenience to passengers, and this is very much regretted, our view is that safety cannot be compromised.

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