



MEDIA STATEMENT

28 DECEMBER 2009

US TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DIRECTIVE

Johannesburg. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) would like to confirm receipt of an Emergency Amendment (directive) from the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to beef up security efforts at airports and in particular airlines that operate flights to the United States. In recognition of the threat to civil aviation, TSA has determined that these circumstances constitute an emergency requiring immediate action to ensure safety in air transportation.

This directive follows a terrorist attack attempt, on December 25, 2009, against a flight traveling to the United States. TSA has identified security measures to be implemented at airports by aircraft operators to the US to mitigate potential threats to flights.

In the interest of security no further details can be revealed regarding the nature of security measures that are being undertaken other than to confirm that these measures are in the interest of increasing the levels of security at our airports and in the carriers.

South Africa has only one airline (South African Airways, SAA) flying directly into the United States other than the foreign operator Delta Airlines. This directive has been dispatched to both SAA and Delta Airlines and it is currently being implemented. It has to be mentioned that these increased security measures do not affect flights to any other destinations but only flights to the USA.

It is important to note that the South African Civil Aviation Authority takes security at our airports very seriously and would take any measures necessary in ensuring the security of our passengers. As a signatory State to the Chicago Convention of 1944, the SACAA complies with all security related annexes (in this case Annex 17) and participates in ongoing International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and US-TSA security audits. It is encouraging to note that the SACAA has in the past performed very well in these audits.

The SACAA will therefore cooperate fully with the TSA directive as part of its international cooperation obligation and in the interest of aviation security.

END

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