



# **REPUBLIC of SAN MARINO**

## **CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**

Via Consiglio dei Sessanta, 99  
47891 Dogana  
Republic of San Marino  
TEL: +378 (0549) 882929 | FAX: +378 (0549) 882928

### **SAFETY NOTICE No. 03/2021 Issue 01**

#### **PITOT AND STATIC PORT BLOCKAGE**

This Safety Notice contains recommendations regarding operational safety. Recipients should ensure that this Notice is copied to all members of their staff who need to take appropriate action or who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

#### **1 Introduction**

1.1 San Marino CAA are aware of three separate events occurring at London Heathrow Airport between 9 June 2021 – 11 June 2021, whereby aircraft have been subject of pitot blockages that resulted in airspeed discrepancies and associated crew actions. The cause of these events are the subject of ICAO Annex 13 investigation, which the UK AAIB is undertaking, however initial feedback suggests a form of insect infestation may have contributed to these events.

1.2 The aircraft involved, were of different types and had been in low utilisation operation. These had been subject to parking for periods of 3 -7 days at various locations within the airport.

1.3 San Marino CAA advises operators, maintenance, and continuing airworthiness management organisations that whilst the investigation is on-going, these events may not be isolated to this airport and the time for the blockages to occur is unknown. Blockages due to insects may also affect static ports with similar issues for airspeed reliability.

#### **2 Actions for Operators**

2.1 Operators, Maintenance Organisations and Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisations are to ensure compliance with the Original Equipment Manufacturers / Type



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Certificate Holders – Operational Suitability Data (OSD) specifically relate to aircraft storage, pre-flight inspections and unreliable airspeed information.

2.2 Crews should be made aware of this potential issue, reminded of the importance of the speed checks during the take-off roll and the actions to be taken in the case of a discrepancy, as well as the appropriate unreliable speed indications for their aircraft type should they discover the issue once airborne.

### **3 Additional Information**

3.1 Information supporting operations during the COVID19 pandemic is available on the ICAO website under the CART Take-off pages <https://www.icao.int/covid/cart/Pages/CART-Take-off.aspx>

3.2 Information supporting parking and storage of aircraft and the main watch areas can be found on the ICAO website at <https://www.icao.int/safety/OPS/OPS-Normal/Pages/Mainarea.aspx>

This safety notice will remain in effect until cancelled.

Eng. Marco Conti  
Director General

15 June 2021