REPUBLIC of SAN MARINO
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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SAFETY NOTICE No. 03/2026 Issue 07

AIRSPACE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND PERSIAN GULF (Gulf of Oman)

Related: Safety Notices No. 01/2019 Issue 02

Introduction:

This Safety Notice is issued based on information currently available to the San Marino Civil Aviation Authority (SM CAA). Its purpose is to promulgate safety information considered necessary to ensure the continued safety of flight operations over areas of concern and to identify airspace assessed as presenting a heightened risk.

Following the military conflict between the United States and Iran, the regional security situation remains volatile, creating additional risks in the airspace of the affected countries.
Iranian efforts to maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz, recurrent attacks against commercial vessels, and related US military actions create high risks for the airspace over the waters of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as for the airspace over the waters in the Gulf of Oman west of longitude 58°E.

The presence of major US military facilities in the region increases the likelihood that the States covered by this Safety Notice may be directly exposed to Iranian missile and drone attacks. The surrounding maritime airspace may also be affected by missile or drone overflights, interception activity, falling debris and the wider consequences of regional military escalation.
The heightened readiness and activation of national and US air-defense systems increase the risk of misidentification, unintended engagement and collateral effects affecting civil aircraft.

Military activity may occur with little or no warning in confined airspace, significantly reducing the time available to aircraft operators and air navigation service providers to mitigate exposure through tactical rerouting or timely airspace management measures.

Regional authorities have implemented temporary airspace closures and restrictions at different stages of the conflict. However, the unpredictable nature and rapid evolution of military activity

may challenge the timely and effective implementation of such measures.

Unpredictable military developments, combined with the possible use of missiles, drones, combat aircraft and air-defense systems, create a high risk to civil flights at all altitudes and flight levels over the waters within the concerned airspace.

While risks over the waters of the Persian Gulf remain high, operations necessary for arrivals at or departures from aerodromes within the affected FIRs may be conducted with sufficient mitigation, provided they are based on an up-to-date risk assessment and continuous risk monitoring. Residual risks also remain over the land territory of the affected States, where operators should continue to exercise caution and take account of possible missile and drone activity, air-defense operations and falling debris.
Based on current assessments and anticipated developments, the SM CAA considers that a high risk to civil aviation exists within the affected airspace.

The SM CAA will continue to monitor developments closely and will review this Safety Notice as necessary in response to any escalation or de-escalation of the threat environment.

Referenced Publication(s):

Operators should refer to relevant Aeronautical Information Publications (AIPs), NOTAMs and other aeronautical publications issued by the affected States or on behalf of their respective aviation authorities.

Affected Airspace:

All altitudes/flight levels within the following Flight Information Regions (FIRs):

Bahrain FIR – OBBB

Doha FIR – OTDF

Emirates FIR – OMAE

Kuwait FIR – OKAC

Muscat FIR – OOMM

Applicability

This Safety Notice applies to all owners and operators of aircraft registered in the Republic of San Marino.

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Recommendation(s):

In view of the assessed risk environment, operators are recommended to:

- Not operate at all altitudes and flight levels within the airspace over the waters of the Persian Gulf within FIR Bahrain (OBBB), FIR Kuwait (OKAC), FIR Doha (OTDF), FIR Emirates (OMAE), except to the extent necessary for arrivals at or departures from aerodromes within the affected FIRs.

- Not operate within the airspace over the waters of the Gulf of Oman within the FIR Muscat (OOMM) west of longitude 58°E at all altitudes and flight levels.

- Exercise caution and take potential risks into account when operating in the airspace over the land territory within the above-mentioned FIRs.

- Ensure that an up-to-date risk assessment and a high level of contingency planning are in place for operations within the affected airspace and be prepared for short notice instructions from the State authorities.

- Closely monitor airspace developments in the region and follow all available aeronautical publications concerning the region, including information shared through the European Information Sharing and Cooperation Platform on Conflict Zones, alongside available guidance or direction from their national authorities.

Operators remain responsible for ensuring that risk assessments are current, documented, and proportionate to the evolving threat environment.

Valid Until:

This Safety Notice remains in force until 28th February 2027, unless earlier amended, varied or withdrawn.

Digitally signed by: MARCO CONTI

Eng. Marco Conti
Director General

01 November 2026