

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
O/O DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

AIR SAFETY CIRCULAR No. 4 of 2003
(F.No. AV.15029/2/2002-AS)

SUBJECT: IMPORTANCE OF WEATHER BRIEFING

Weather related serious incidents and accidents in aviation are not uncommon and investigation of such occurrences had led to belief that lack of adequate and correct information covered during Meteorological briefing at originating stations had significant contribution. It has been observed that pilots tend to rely only on Air Borne Weather Radar installed in the aircraft without appreciating its limitations and giving due consideration to thorough Met Briefing covering study of satellite pictures such as Visual Infra Red, Water Vapors enhanced images along with now casting equipment such as Radar, etc.

Satellite imageries are not provided along with documentations during self-briefing by India Meteorological Department. ICAO mandate does not require provisions of satellite imageries in the flight-briefing document as this is expected to be taken into consideration in the forecast. Further only an experienced and trained Meteorological Forecaster may be in a position to under take the interpretation and that too in consultation with other inputs such as synoptic weather charts etc. Any misinterpretation of satellite imageries by untrained personnel may result in aviation mishaps.

It is, therefore, considered paramount that especially during Monsoon period including pre and post monsoon periods all aircraft owners / operators / hirers of General Aviation, scheduled and non-scheduled airlines should mandatorily involved their pilots / flight dispatchers to obtain Met Briefing in person and study satellite clouds imageries along with Met Briefing Officer prior to commencing a flight. A copy of Aviation Circular No.1/2003 dated 21-8-2003 issued by the Office of Deputy Director General of Meteorological (Weather Forecasting) regarding utilization of satellite products during Met Briefing is enclosed herewith for guidance and utilization of the services by pilots.

(M.L.NAGAR)
Assistant Director of Air Safety
for Director General of Civil Aviation

NEW DELHI
DATED THE 20-11-2003

To

All Aircraft Owner/Operator/Hirer
Chief of Operation, All Scheduled & Non-scheduled Airlines