

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
AIR SAFETY DIRECTORATE
AV15013/6/2007-AS

Air Safety Circular No.3 of 2009

Subject: Deactivation of duplicate controls in the cockpit.

Analysis of accidents to General Aviation airplane and helicopters certified for single pilot operation has revealed that passengers occupied the copilot's seat with duplicate controls installed. Pilot faced serious problems in handling emergencies in effective manner. Interferences with the controls by passengers in emergency situation may jeopardize safety of aircraft and its occupants.

Instruction has already been issued by DGCA wherein it is advised that all operators of aircraft certified for single pilot operations and fitted with dual controls shall deactivate the controls on the co-pilot side whenever the copilot's side seat is occupied by a passenger. It is also advised that a logbook entry to that effect should be made in the Airframe log book. It will be the responsibility of the owner to ensure that the dual controls are deactivated.

In spite of the instructions already exists it was observed in the investigation of number of accidents that the duplicate controls in cockpit were not deactivated and passengers were allowed to sit on copilot's seat.

It is therefore reiterated that the owner /operator shall deactivate the controls in the cockpit, before departure, at the Copilot's seat when passenger is allowed to sit in the cockpit. The same shall also be confirmed by Pilot in Command before take-off. This procedure for deactivation shall also be reflected in the Company's Operations manual.

The above is for strict compliance by all operators with immediate effect.

New Delhi
26th February 2009

--Sd--
(Bir Singh Rai)
Director Air Safety
For Director General of Civil Aviation

To
All aircraft operators/Helicopter operators.
Internal distribution list.