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Reminder of Commander's Authority

Introduction

The Flight Operations Department has seen a number of instances recently where Commanders of the aircraft have failed to challenge ATC instructions that were unsuitable or unsafe for the aircraft type being operated. This has led to safety of flight incidents which have posed danger to aircraft and crew.

Instructions

Flight Crews are reminded that the Commander retains ultimate responsibility for operation of the aircraft and thus the safety of all passengers and crew onboard. ATC instructions that threaten the safety of the aircraft are to be immediately challenged. The Commander should stop the aircraft and ensure a complete understanding is come to with the relevant controller as to how the aircraft if to be operated in order to comply with all applicable restrictions.

Basis

OM A -

3.2 Authority, Duties and Responsibilities of the Commander

The designated Captain has ultimate responsibility for the safety of the aircraft, passengers and crew, throughout the period of command. The Captain is also directly responsible for the conduct of flight operations in accordance with OPS Part 1, The Air Navigation Order, BAVirtual Policies and BAVirtual's Operations Manual.

4.3.6.1 Ground Navigation Responsibilities

Accurate navigation and collision avoidance on the ground is the responsibility of the pilot.

Conclusion

Incidents which are brought to the attention of the Flight Operations Department will leave your PIREP liable for rejection in accordance with the Flying Standards Publication.

Please ensure you have familiarised yourself with all relevant restrictions based upon your aircraft type and airfield of operation.