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AIC A 27/09 FRANCE

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SUBJECT: Intra Schengen international flights

This AIC supersedes the AIC A 06/09 dated 19 March 2009.

The flights operated between metropolitan France (*) and the other States implementing the Schengen acquis, in particular the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement (**) are subjected to customs and police control as follows:

Case of flights inside the Schengen space with States other than Switzerland

These flights are not subjected to any specific customs and police control. Therefore, they may be performed, on the French side, on departure from or arrival at all aerodromes, helipads and airfields approved to receive ultra-light motorized aircraft, provided that the use intended for these aerodromes, helipads and airfields is complied with.

Pilots are invited to check for the applicable provisions on the aerodromes and other surfaces located on the territory of the other States in the Schengen space, as defined by the respective States.

Case of flights with Switzerland

From 29 March 2009 onwards and as per the implementation of the Agreement as regards the association of the Swiss Confederation to Schengen, the control at air French-Swiss borders are removed.

However, Switzerland, which is not a member of the European Union, has signed a customs union agreement neither with the European Union nor with France. Therefore, the movements of goods and capitals between France and Switzerland (in both directions) remain subjected to the respective customs regulations of both States, whatever the type of flight, whether public, private or aerial work, and consequently are liable to be subjected to a control by the relevant authorities; this customs control may apply, in particular, to the aircraft and luggage.

Therefore, the last take-off point before crossing the border and the first landing point after crossing the border shall be chosen accordingly:

- on the Swiss side, customs aerodrome in case of carrying goods to be declared and "tolerated traffic aerodrome" otherwise;
- on the French side, aerodrome open to international air traffic under the provisions of the amended order dated 20 April 1998 relating to the opening of aerodromes to international air traffic.

In all cases

As these flights are international flights, they are subjected to the obligation of filing a flight plan (see AIP France GEN 1.2-4 and ENR 1.10 Flight plans).

For the aerodromes specified in articles 3 and 4 of the aforementioned amended order dated 20 April 1998, the 24-hour prior notice required to provide for customs, police and health control remains, as specified in article 5 of said order.

* This does not apply to overseas French territorial communities.

** Apart from France, the States operating under the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement dated 14 June 1985 are:

Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.

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