



Prepared by the Security & Hazardous Materials Safety Organization (ASH)

Russia/Ukraine – Escalating Tensions Could Pose Risk to Civil Aviation

Increased military activity, ceasefire violations, and political tensions are raising concerns about a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine in the near to midterm. An invasion or a cross-border conflict resulting from miscalculation or misperception would pose an increased risk to civil aviation operations in the region. The Russian military, Russian-led separatists and the Ukrainian military have advanced air defense capabilities and other weapons that could pose a risk to civil aircraft up to and above cruising altitudes. The 2014 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 (MH 17) demonstrated the risk to civil aircraft mistakenly targeted during periods of increased tensions and military activities.

As of the time of this product, there is no significant change in the risk environment for civil aircraft operating in the region; however, the potential for escalation exists, depending on how the situation develops. Russia has deployed additional military forces along its border with Ukraine throughout the autumn of 2021, following a series of military exercises. As of early October, Russia had approximately 90,000 troops in the area; Russia may be planning to deploy up to 175,000 total troops to the Russia-Ukraine border. In early December, Belarus announced upcoming bilateral military exercises with Russian forces in the Belarus-Ukraine border region, which may further escalate tensions.

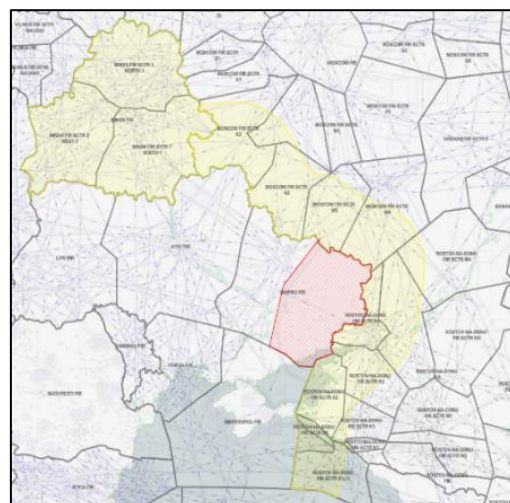
Short of open conflict, increased risk to civil aviation could also result from ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine, which have more than doubled from September to November. Increased use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in the region is also likely to result in an increased deployment of counter-UAS capabilities, including anti-aircraft weapons and electronic jammers, presenting a potential increased inadvertent risk to civil aviation operations in the region. As border tensions escalate, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is monitoring the situation closely for any significant change in the risk environment for U.S. civil aviation.

FAA Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 113 prohibits U.S. civil aviation operations in specified areas of the Dnipro (UKDV) Flight Information Region (FIR), as described in the rule. Separately, Ukraine maintains a prohibited area over the Crimean Peninsula and portions of the Black Sea within the Simferopol FIR (UKFV). FAA Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM) KICZ A0012/21 advises U.S. operators and pilots to exercise extreme caution when operating in the Moscow (UUWV) and Rostov-Na Donu (URRV) FIRs within 100NM of the two FIRs' boundaries with certain FIRs managed by Ukraine, as described in the NOTAM.

Copies of FAA flight prohibition SFARs and flight prohibition or advisory NOTAMs are available on FAA's Prohibitions, Restrictions and Notices website at:

https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/us_restrictions/.

If there are any questions, please contact the FAA Threat Analysis Division (AXE-200) at 202-267-3203 or FAA-Watch@faa.gov.



SFAR 113 (red) and NOTAM KICZ A0012/21 and KICZ A0017/21 (yellow). This graphic is not to be used for navigational purposes.