



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

Russia/Ukraine – Increased Risk of Potential Conflict

Since late December 2021, tensions between Russia and Ukraine have escalated. Russia's military deployments and activities in the Russia-Ukraine border region, occupied Crimea, Belarus, and the Black Sea could enable Russia to conduct cross-border military operations with little to no warning. The increased force deployments and heightened rhetoric—along with uncertainty over Russia's intentions and operational timelines—result in an increasingly unpredictable situation. If cross-border conflict occurs, it may pose a direct or indirect threat to civil aviation.

There has been no significant change in the risk environment for civil aviation operations in the region, but the potential exists for substantial escalation. Civil operators should monitor the situation, establish/review contingency plans, maintain communications with air traffic control (ATC) authorities, and closely follow ATC instructions and other guidance.

As of early February 2022, Russia has deployed additional surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems in the territory surrounding Ukraine and advanced combat aircraft to Belarus and Russian-occupied Crimea. The increase of deployed air defense systems provides Russia with an overlapping strategic air defense layer in the region, with SAM coverage extending into Ukrainian airspace. Russia also increased the number of electronic warfare systems deployed along Ukraine's periphery, posing potential navigation and communications interference concerns and resulting in an increase in jamming-related incidents reported near the Russia-Ukraine border. Armed forces in Russia-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine and the Ukrainian military also maintain advanced air defense capabilities, posing potential airspace deconfliction concerns for civil aircraft operating in the region 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.

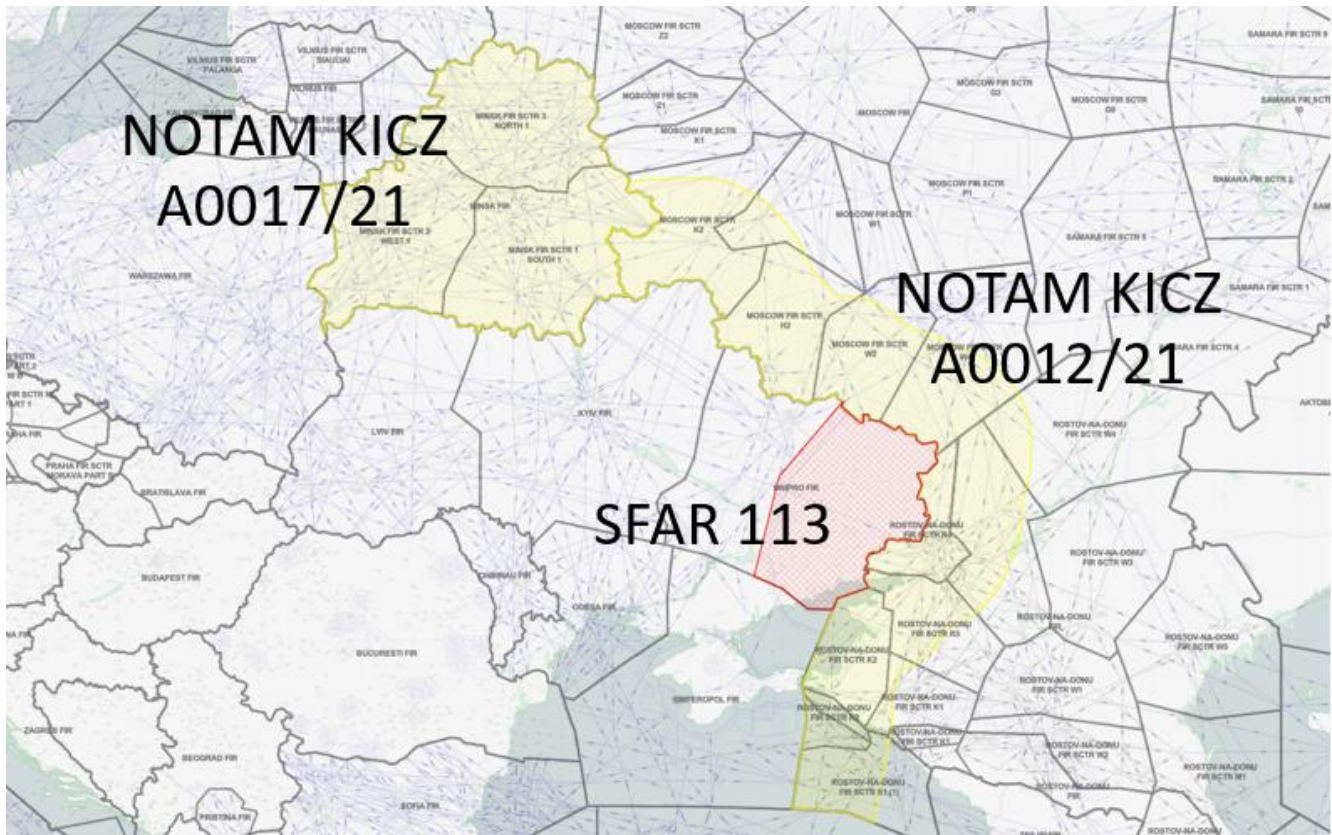
Russia remains engaged in an unprecedented amount of purported exercise activity, including amphibious assault and combined arms exercises in the Black Sea and wide-ranging combined arms exercises in Belarus. This activity is expected to culminate with the joint Belarusian-Russian Union Resolve 2022 Exercise, scheduled to end on 20 February. The vast scope of exercise-related military activity occurring near Ukraine's borders may increase the risk to civil aviation.

FAA Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 113, 14 C.F.R. § 91.1607, prohibits U.S. civil aviation operations from surface to unlimited in specified areas of the Dnipro (UKDV) Flight Information Region (FIR), as described in the rule. 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. FAA NOTAM A0017/2021 advises U.S. civil aviation conducting passenger-carrying operations in the Minsk (UMMV) FIR to exercise extreme caution until the FAA can better assess the circumstances of the 23 May 2021 diversion of a civil passenger aircraft to Belarus. Separately, Ukraine maintains a prohibited area over the Crimean Peninsula and portions of the Black Sea within the Simferopol FIR (UKFV).

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

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

This information is provided for situational awareness only.



**Current FAA SFAR No. 113 and FAA advisory NOTAMs for the region.
This graphic is NOT for navigational purposes.**

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

This information is provided for situational awareness only.