

IAFPA Chairman Calls for Urgent Action on Non-Compliance to International Standards at Muan Airport, Korea

The International Aviation Fire Protection Association (IAFPA) is deeply concerned about the alarming non-compliance with international aviation safety standards at Muan Airport, Korea. Specifically, the placement of a concrete Instrument Landing System (ILS) structure in the designated emergency runway path poses a critical threat to aircraft and passenger safety.

As aviation safety advocates, the IAFPA emphasizes that all airport infrastructure must adhere strictly to international standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other regulatory bodies. The placement of fixed structures in the path of potential emergency landings such as belly landings undermines the basic principles of aviation safety.

“The safety of passengers, crew and aircraft is paramount. The existence of a concrete ILS in a critical emergency path at Muan Airport is a stark violation of the international standards and recommended practices (SARPs) and jeopardizes the effectiveness of emergency operations,” said Cletus Packiam, Chairman of the IAFPA. “This is a wake-up call for regulators and airport authorities worldwide to ensure compliance with safety standards and prevent such hazardous oversight”.

The IAFPA calls upon the relevant Korean aviation authorities, airport operators, and international aviation regulatory bodies to take immediate action to address this issue.

This includes:

1. **Urgent Review and Compliance Check:**

Conducting a thorough review of all airport infrastructure to ensure compliance with ICAO standards and recommended practices.

2. **Removal or Relocation of Hazardous Structures:**

Eliminating any fixed structures from emergency pathways to ensure the safety of belly landings and other emergency operations.

3. **International Oversight and Collaboration:**

Engaging with ICAO and other relevant organizations to conduct audits and provide guidance on compliance measures.

The IAFPA stands ready to collaborate with stake holders to enhance aviation safety and prevent future incidents or accidents. Safety is a shared responsibility, and non-compliance at any airport can have catastrophic consequences for the global aviation community.

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