

**Contact**

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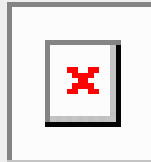
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## GUIDELINES FOR AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES UNITS AND PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES WHEN NOTIFIED OF A SUSPECTED CASE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ON BOARD AN INBOUND AIRCRAFT

**1 NOTICE**

This AIC is only available in PDF. Please click the PDF link in the commands pane.

1. As soon as a Pilot – in – Command (PIC) becomes aware that he/she has a traveller on board who is suffering from a suspected communicable disease, the PIC should report this to the air traffic services unit with which he/she is currently communicating, with a request that a message be forwarded to the destination aerodrome control tower. The message should include the aircrafts' call sign, aerodrome of departure, destination aerodrome, estimated time of arrival, numbers of travellers affected, person on board and words "communicable disease". An example of the message format and content is at Appendix to this Circular.
2. Procedures for local public health authority (PHA) or quarantine station to be informed by the destination aerodrome control tower of the arriving aircraft should be agreed locally and included in the appropriate contingency plans. It is envisaged that once the PHA is in receipt of the relevant information it will contact the airline agent and establish, through the aircraft operating agency (not, air traffic control (ATC), communication with the aircraft concerned. Depending on the communication facilities available to the agency, the PHA may not be able to communicate with the aircraft until it is closer to its destination. However, it is through the aircraft operating agency that details of the event in addition to those transmitted by the air traffic services unit to the destination control tower, can be requested by the PHA and communicated to it. Apart from the initial notification to the air traffic services unit by the PIC whilst en route, ATC communication channels should not be used.
3. The guidelines above have been necessitated by the advent of cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and the continuing concern about influenza of global pandemic potential to ensure reliable notification procedures to public health authorities (PHAs) at the aircraft destination, in the event that such a suspected case is identified on board an aircraft in flight.
4. This circular is issued for information, guidance and necessary action.

A.C. Mtilatila

DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION

**APPENDIX TO AIC A6/2007****CONTENT OF MESSAGE OF A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTED ON BOARD AN AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT**

“(ATS unit) (Call sign) REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO (destination aerodrome) TOWER ADVISE READY TO COPY”

“(Call sign), ADVISE (destination aerodrome TOWER THAT (call sign), DEPARTURE AERODROME (departure aerodrome) ESTIMATING (destination aerodrome) AT (time) PERSONS ON BOARD (number) REPORTING (number) CASE(s) OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ON BOARD”.

“LILONGWE CONTROL, MALAWI 6621 REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO CHILEKA CONTROL TOWER. ADVISE READY TO COPY”

"LILONGWE APPROACH, ADVISE CHILEKA TOWER THAT MALAWI 6621, DEPARTURE AERODROME NAIROBI  
STIMATING CHILEKS AT 1004 PERSONS ON BOARD 105 REPORTING 13 CASES OF COMMUNICABLE DIEASE ON  
BOARD".