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From: SKINNER, Karen J

Sent: 08 September 2008 10:53

Subject: FW: LTMA inbound speed trial

Dear Customer

The LTMA inbound speed trial is due to come to an end on 31st August 2008.

We have carried out analysis of inbound speeds during the trial and compared this to NATS data for 2007, which clearly demonstrates an overall reduction in the average inbound speeds being flown.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for the feedback you provided regarding the 270kts LTMA inbound speed trial. Broadly speaking the feedback from our customers was in favour of the trial with 270kts generally being viewed as an acceptable average, given that individual company econ speeds are in the range 250-280kts. The data collected during the trial clearly supports this, as it demonstrates that on average, aircraft are descending at slower more economical speeds and this is generally falling within the range of 250 – 280kts.

The revised procedure will now allow aircraft to fly their preferred economical speeds and cater for increased speeds where these are required to reach a cleared level, unless speed control is required for ATC purposes. The aim is still to reduce the average inbound speeds during periods of holding, as this will reduce holding times and thus provide fuel savings. The standard speed limit points inbound to the TMA will continue to apply.

When a common speed control for streaming is required controllers will be asked, where possible, to use 270kts as this has been accepted as a good compromise across most operators and aircraft types.

Please can you pass this information on to your crews.

Karen Skinner

External Safety Manager

Division of Safety

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