

～For Preventing ATC related troubles～

◇Common Audio Visual Material, “Desirable ATC Communication Procedures for Preventing Runway Incursions”

◇ATC Communication Handbook

ATC communications play a crucial role for achieving safe aircraft operations.

ATS Committee of JAPA has released a guidance material of the “Preventive Measures of Runway Incursions” which highlights the ATC communications in full cooperation with JCAB.

Both airlines and JCAB have launched various countermeasures in the wake of the runway incursions occurred in a row at Osaka International Airport in 2007. JCAB newly published the phrase and marking to hold short of the runway and notified the pilot’s read back policy in 2009 as well as prescribing the measures by the controllers for a read back in the Standards of the ATC Procedures in 2012.

The number of runway incursions has been decreased, however, not yet eradicated. Still various threats exist in the ATC communications as the final resort of safety despite the improvement of hardware such as an introduction of the runway status lights.

Runway incursions are not yet eradicated since these countermeasure for pilots and controllers would have been rather vague and ineffective. For example, “ATC procedures” and “Encouraging pilot’s read backs” are not closely interacted with each other and would not work as an effective means to integrate pilots and controllers for preventing runway incursions. For these reasons, the communication records of all the incidents have thoroughly been analyzed by a pilot-controller team under the initiative of the Air traffic control division of JCAB in order to establish effective preventive measures by scrutinizing “What was wrong?” and “How the incidents would have been prevented?”.

The team has come to the conclusion **“Some additional measures are required besides the prescribed rules”** for pilots and controllers in order to overcome the difficulties, and begun to see what is required more concretely. The conclusion of the research has been introduced in the ATS Symposium of 2010.

JCAB has compiled the “ATC Communication Handbook” based on the team’s research as a guidance material for preventing runway incursions. The Bureau also distributed the Handbook to all the controllers and the video program used in the ATS Symposium to each facility considering a common materials are required in order to foster a common understanding among the controllers. Also, the handbook and the video program have been provided to each airlines for company’s use.

ATS Committee of JAPA has developed **common audio visual materials of the “Desirable ATC Communications for Preventing Runway Incursions” and the “ATC Communication Handbook”** for airlines use in 2011 by reediting the “Measures for Preventing the Runway Incursions” prepared by JCAB.

These materials have been used for regular trainings first, and then for preventing ATC related troubles in several Japanese airlines. We strongly hope to fully utilize these pilot-ATC common guidance materials for preventing recurrences of runway incursions as well as other ATC related troubles.