

Media release

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Airservices supports international runway safety initiative

Airservices Australia has launched a range of practical tools to support an international initiative to improve runway safety.

Developed in conjunction with the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) and industry workgroups, the initiative aims to reduce 'unstable' approaches, which can result in runway excursions or aircraft veering off or overrunning the runway during take-off or landing.

Among the products released to air traffic controllers and pilots are a smart device-accessible mobile website, educational flyers and a booklet containing key tips for controllers and pilots.

A runway safety maturity checklist has also been developed to assist the wider aviation industry, including airlines and airports, to benchmark its levels of maturity in managing runway safety risks.

Airservices Executive General Manager Safety and Assurance, Stephen Angus, said that unstable approaches were a significant risk for potential runway excursions.

According to the International Air Transport Association, unstable approaches contributed to 17 per cent of global aircraft accidents between 2008 and 2012.

Meanwhile, runway excursions were found to account for 29 per cent of commercial transport aircraft accidents worldwide from 1995 to 2008.

"Both pilots and air traffic controllers play critical roles in achieving safe and stable approaches," Mr Angus said.

"From an air traffic control perspective, these tools will assist controllers and pilots to better understand what is required from both of them to achieve stable approaches," he said.

"Airservices is pleased to support this global initiative as part of our runway safety program and looks forward to working closely with staff and the industry to further enhance safety."

The booklets, flyers, checklist and link to the CANSO mobile website are available on Airservices runway safety page at www.airservicesaustralia.com/flight-briefing/pilot-and-airside-safety

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