



Aviation News

FAA Extends Rules to Start New Flights from O'Hare- *Aviation Daily* reports the FAA will give airlines that buy, sell or lease slots at Chicago O'Hare Airport until Jan. 27, 2007 to start new flights. The change is an adjustment to the current rules governing slot allocation that expire at the end of the month and require flights to start by Dec. 31. The agency recently dropped the two-year-old ban for transferring slots through various means contained in the current regulations, which become null when the final rule takes effect in November. Keeping the Dec. 31 deadline "could arguably permit the order to continue after it has expired," FAA explained. The agency also stated, "Additionally, we are amending the Final Rule to specify that initial allocations under the rule require operations to commence no later than Jan. 27." The FAA noted current rules that expire at the end of the month don't specify the steps an operator must complete before it gets a nod to start service from the airport during peak hours. The agency said it expects that new entrant and limited incumbent carriers need to display an intent to start flights, even if that service doesn't start by the time the rulemaking expires.

Delta Announces Expansion to Emerging Markets- *The Wall Street Journal* reports Delta announced a new round of expansion to emerging markets, including flights to Dubai and to Bucharest, Romania, while laying the groundwork for future expansion to Asia. Delta is trying to catch up with several big U.S. airlines that are charting their courses for growth in the surging international air travel market, as global trade continues to be driven by the exploding economies of China, India and other parts of Asia. The carrier is building its presence in Los Angeles with a view to eventually expand from there to Asian destinations.

FAA Issues Anti-Missile Contract- *Bloomberg News* reports the FAA has issued a contract for Northrop Grumman to supply four agency aircraft with anti-missile systems. The test aircraft will be provided with the same infrared anti-missile systems supplied to U.S. Air Force C-17 transports. The systems, designed to send shoulder-launched missiles off-course, will go on the FAA planes used to certify navigation beacons, radar and lighting at commercial airports and military installations. The planes are being equipped at the request of the Air Force, which uses the aircraft overseas in areas such as Baghdad. FedEx will also fly nine modified MD-10 cargo planes with the system to test its suitability for commercial aviation under a separate Department of Homeland Security contract.

Read the full story:

employees.faa.gov/news/media_stories/daily_media

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Operation Metrics

Source: Aviation System Performance Metrics

System	Actuals Oct 1 - Oct 12	Performance Limit Oct 1 - Oct 12	Change	Performance Oct 1 - Oct 12	Actuals Oct 12
Runway Incursions*	0	1	(1)	✓	0
Operational Errors*	19	21	(2)	✓	1

*Category A & B

OEP 35 Airports	Actuals Oct 1 - Oct 12	Minimum Performance Goal	Change	Performance Oct 1 - Oct 12	Actuals Oct 12	Performance Oct 12
Airport Average Daily Capacity	102116	101562	554	✓	100386	✗
System Airport Efficiency Rate	95.44%	95.25%	0.19	✓	94.18%	✗
Adjusted Operational Availability	N/A	99.70%	N/A	—	N/A	—

OEP 35 Airports	Actuals Oct 1 - Oct 12	Actuals Oct 12
On Time Gate Arrivals	75.94%	63.96%

Operational Update

Anybody paraskavedekatriaphobic? If so, you've obviously decided to put your irrational fear of Friday the 13th aside for the moment by reading this intellectual tome! It really does take your mind off things like that, doesn't it? Far more worrisome in our business are bouts of lackofriday-slotsofphobia. We digress. Delays yesterday were a direct result of moving over 57,000 airplanes through our system, with a smattering of snow, thunderstorms and wind added for effect. Our delay count was in the neighborhood of 2,435, cancellations clocked in at 350+, and five ground delay programs were used to help out.

Low ceilings and snow at ORD required a GDP with a 66-96 rate to handle their relatively low count (hard fought, no doubt) of 2,617. The result, 467 delays. Winds up to 35 kts and RVR-reducing snow squalls were just a part of ORD's challenges. The wind is picking up as we write, so similar problems (minus the snow) may be seen there again today. ATL and its customers were pleased with the performance in Dixie. Despite 356 delays, charged mostly to construction and lack of trip departures, 2,939 airplanes plied the area's friendly southern skies. IAH used a GDP at a 58 rate to mitigate the impact of thunderstorms, but still weaved 1,632 operations in and out of Texas. EWR's flow-smoothing GDP for ceilings and wind generated 262 delays using a 36-44 rate. PHL had a very busy day with 1,562 operations, despite ceilings (well, they ain't high!), and delayed 221 during the 36-52 rate program. LGA rated a GDP for ceilings and wind that limited airplanes to 34-38 an hour, tallying 215 delays out of a credible 1,225 operations. N90 had 6,318 operations and delayed 108 while providing that good ol' customer-pleasing service to and around the Apple! JFK counted 85 reportables out of 1,290 operations for volume. CLT volume accounted for 79 delays, yet managed to move 1,567 airplanes. HOU battled the Texas thunderstorms through 654 operations and 32 delays recorded.

And now, some good news on thunderstorm season. It's almost over! Which leads us to the ensuing season's hazards. BUF, to be exact, just received up to two feet of global warming and the airport wasn't expected to re-open until around noon today. This is strange early-winter weather even for Buffalo, where sidewalks usually disappear until July!

Several weeks ago, ZAB area pilots began to hear a radio station interfering with a departure frequency. Two days ago, MIT were initiated for this recurring problem and since then 22 delays have resulted. The source was identified as a commercial radio station with a hole in their antenna transmission line. Rather than trample First Amendment rights or otherwise constrain the station, we have shut down ZAB. Oh, come on! The station is off the air until the cable is replaced.

Happy Friday.....the 13th!

— Prepared by the ATO Internal Communications Staff

System Outlook

Expect strong, gusty winds across the Midwest and Ohio Valley, including Chicago and Detroit. Depending on the actual impact of the wind, initiatives are possible for Detroit and Chicago O'Hare.