



Boeing production delays

IATA Guidance: JNUS

Situation

Boeing Company has issued an advisory regarding postponements in the delivery of its 737 Max 8 aircraft. The most recent irregularity relates to a supplier's non-standard installation of fittings on the aircraft's aft section. Production delays are anticipated to impact both production and storage orders. In response to this situation, Boeing has reached out to airlines globally to defer delivery dates, leaving some airlines without the necessary aircraft to operate planned services.

Impact

The occurrence impacts many airlines, and the disruption is expected to spread to airports globally. Airlines and the availability of aircraft from lease companies are impacted. The supply of replacement aircraft is already stretched due to ongoing engine and manufacturing issues. The supply of suitable replacement aircraft has become scarce.

IATA understands Boeing production levels remain uncertain, and delivery dates should be treated with caution. In the absence of precise delivery dates, the situation should be considered unforeseeable. Nevertheless, the situation remains unavoidable and is disrupting airline plans for reasons that are outside airline control.

Recommendation

IATA requests coordinators to approve JNUS eligibility and to consider affected slots as operated. This recommendation aims to help harmonize the application of Justified Non-Utilization of Slots (JNUS) globally. More specifically, JNUS eligibility should apply to airlines where:

- An existing aircraft delivery date has been deferred.
- The delayed aircraft was planned for use on existing (not new) slots.
- JNUS eligibility should be approved where approved at the other end of the route.
- Network impacts should be considered that may make connecting flights unsustainable
- JNUS should be granted in advance of operations and until the deferred delivery date, plus a reasonable period for bringing the new aircraft into service.

Airlines should be prepared to provide documentation that confirms the above circumstances. Coordinators should be prepared to provide clear reasoning if unable to approve JNUS eligibility. IATA encourages coordinator-airline dialogue to identify if the events impacting individual airlines are unforeseeable, unavoidable and fall outside of the airline's control. Where agreement cannot be found, the airport Coordination Committee (or equivalent body) should be requested to provide guidance.

Contact

For more information concerning IATA's guidance, please contact slots@iata.org