



July 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The constant improvement in the aviation safety record is a manifestation of our commitment to safety. However, we must continue to review existing processes and implement new ideas to improve the results.

Analysis of accident data has identified that the highest rate of accidents occurs in the “runway excursion” category, where the aircraft departs the runway during takeoff or landing. Over the 14 year period from 1995 through 2008 the commercial aircraft fleet suffered a total of 1,429 major or substantial damage accidents. Of those, 431 accidents (30%) were runway-related. Over the past 14 years, there has been an average of almost 30 runway excursion accidents per year for commercial aircraft. Only a small percentage of runway excursion accidents involve fatalities. However, since the overall number of runway excursion accidents is so high, that small percentage equates to a large number of fatalities. Runway excursions have continued to be the cause of more than 25% of all commercial aircraft accidents annually.

As a result, IATA and the Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) have developed this “Runway Excursion Risk Reduction” Toolkit. Experts from airlines, regulators, aircraft manufacturers, airports, air traffic control and safety organizations around the globe helped develop this important tool. It provides an in depth analysis of runway excursion accident data, a compilation of significant risk factors, and provides recommendations for operators, pilots, airports, Air Traffic Management, Air Traffic Controllers and regulators. This toolkit will be updated as new information becomes available.

We would like to thank the FSF Runway Safety Initiative, the members of the IATA Operations Committee, and the IATA Safety Group for their cooperation and expertise essential in the creation of this toolkit.

We believe the Runway Excursion Risk Reduction toolkit will contribute to reducing the risk of runway excursions, and to achieving our common goal of improving safety worldwide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Matschnigg".

Guenther Matschnigg
Senior VP, IATA
Safety, Operations & Infrastructure

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Voss".

William Voss
President & CEO
Flight Safety Foundation