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Series C

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BIRD STRIKES

Bird strike is an aviation term for a collision between a bird and an aircraft. It is a common threat to aircraft safety. Statistics confirm that this threat has caused a number of fatal accidents worldwide. A bird strike can also break windshields and wound the pilot(s).

Modern jet engines are highly vulnerable to this threat since they have the capability of ingesting birds. This is due to the fact that the fan of a high-bypass turbofan engine, typical on transport aircraft, acts as a centrifugal separator to force ingested materials (birds, ice, etc.) to the outside of the fan's disc. As a result, such materials go through the relatively unobstructed bypass duct, rather than through the core of the engine, which contains the smaller and more delicate compressor blades. This ingestion can easily bring serious consequences.

The highest risk of the bird strike is during the takeoff and landing or in low altitudes, which is normally in the vicinity of airports. At this time the use of active countermeasures are in the process of implementation. These range from a person with a shotgun through recorded sounds or firecrackers. Poisonous grass may be planted that is not palatable to birds, or to insects that attract insectivorous birds. Already implemented are the passive countermeasures involved in sensible land-use management, avoiding conditions attracting flocks of birds to the area (e.g. landfills).

In an effort to mitigate the threat of bird strikes at the Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport, the cooperation of all airlines and pilots is hereby requested. Attached therefore please find Form 2011 "BIRD STIKE FORM" that is being disseminated for the collection of data. Please submit the form to the Manager of Operations, Belize Airport Concession Company Limited and copied to the Director, Belize Department of Civil Aviation, at the address indicated above.

This enters into effect immediately.