



MEDIA STATEMENT

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SACAA's response to the grounding of B737 300

The South African Civil Aviation Authority can confirm that we have fifteen (15) B737 300 series aircraft in our register. These belong to the following operators: Safair (4), SAA (2), Comair/Kulula (9).

The Service Bulletin (SB) 737-53A1319 that was issued by the manufacturer and the Emergency Airworthiness Directive (EAD) 2011-08-05 released by the FAA specifies only certain manufacturing serial numbers that are affected by this due to a change in the building process of the aircraft. We can confirm that none of our SA aircraft fall within this category. The bulletin only applies to airplanes line number 2553 through to 3132.

Having said this however it is important to note that there are a number of Service Bulletins (SB) and Airworthiness Directives (AD), which have been issued by the Authority of state of design (FAA) on this line of aircraft i.e. B737-300. These AD and SB, include other B737 series (e.g. -400 -500 series, etc). The SACAA checks and follows up with operators whenever such notices are released for compliance.

As such the SACAA has decided not to ground any aircraft as a result of the directive from the FAA in the US. The maintenance requirements for these South African registered Boeing 737's is more stringent compared with their counterparts registered in the USA. This is due to the fact that the Civil Aviation Regulations in South Africa make it compulsory for owners and operators of these aircraft to ensure that they fully comply with **ALL** applicable service letters, instructions, bulletins and airworthiness directives issued by

both the aircraft manufacturer and the aviation authority from the state of registry – being the FAA in this case. It is our belief that the frequent and periodic inspections called for on these types of aircraft are sufficient to detect any problems in advance.

-ENDS-

About the SACAA:

The SACAA promotes and maintains a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards.

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