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Ref. ES AN 4/0 – 0752

29 August 2011

Subject: Final Guidance on Boeing 747-8 Wake vortex aspects

Action required: Note the B747-8 wake turbulence categorization as: “HEAVY”

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to refer to State Letter T13/3-0051 dated 20 January 2011 on the subject of interim guidance on Boeing 747-8 wake vortex aspects.
2. You will recall that an expert group in the field of wake vortices from the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL), the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the manufacturer have been undertaking flight test validation studies intended to substantiate final guidance. Such studies have now been completed and the expert group has submitted to ICAO its final recommendations. A safety case supporting the recommendations has also been submitted.
3. The Boeing 747-8 Expert Group examined flight test and simulation data and established safety case arguments for approach, landing, departure, climb/descent, and cruise operations of the Boeing 747-8 relative to other aircraft. The safety case supports the assertion that the Boeing 747-8 is safely categorized as HEAVY. Consequently, the wake turbulence separation minima specified in the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) for HEAVY aircraft should be applied.
4. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Boeing 747-8 will remain in the HEAVY wake turbulence category, to be handled in accordance with provisions of the PANS-ATM, Doc 4444, appropriate for aircraft in the HEAVY category.
5. All previous ICAO interim guidance on Boeing 747-8 wake vortex aspects, including use of the term “HEAVY 748” in radiotelephony, is hereby withdrawn.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Meshresha Belayneh
ICAO Regional Director
Eastern and Southern African Office