

Safety Alert



No. 9/10

Date: 16 November 2010

Subject: **Thunderstorm Alert Procedures**

Area of Concern: **Airside Operations**

This Safety Alert is issued to remind all airport staff of the recommended Thunderstorm Alert Procedures.

A Storm Warning system is installed on the RPT Apron to provide the staff who are most at risk working in this area during the turnaround of an aircraft of a Thunderstorm Alert. The system comprises a number of 'stations' installed along the front of the RPT Apron. With each station fitted with visual strobe lights and an audible horn.



Thunderstorm detection equipment has been installed by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) at Darwin Airport (Automated Thunderstorm Alert Service – ATSAS System) and the airport warning system is activated following receipt of information from Qantas Meteorological Unit.

The warning system uses visual and audible alerts by the use of the following coloured strobes and audible horn:

10nm Thunderstorm Alert: White Strobes + repeating horn for 15 secs (3 beeps, 2 sec quiet, 3 beeps, 2 sec quiet, 3 beeps, and then quiet for the remainder of the alert). White lights are activated when advice is received that thunderstorms have been observed within **10nm** of Darwin Airport and are heading towards the Airport. Normal Ramp activity may be continued, though staff should prepare for the likelihood of a 5nm Thunderstorm Alert.

5nm Thunderstorm Alert: Blue Strobes + Continuous repeating horn (3 beeps, 2 sec quiet, 3 beeps, etc). The **Blue** lights are activated when advice is received that thunderstorms have been observed within **5nm** of Darwin Airport. It is recommended that airport operators should declare an OPERATIONS SHUTDOWN during a 5nm Thunderstorm Alert.

Thunderstorm Cancellation - Strobes and Horn will stop when the alerts are cancelled.

The Blue lights will be deactivated and the ALL CLEAR to resume normal operations when the Thunderstorm passes and the Thunderstorm Alert can be downgraded or cancelled (note may return to a 10nm Alert).

All staff working on the airside should be aware of their company Thunderstorm Alert Operating Procedures.