

Immediate Attention

GACA Safety Circular

To: All GACA Certificated/Authorized Air Operators.

Subject: Re-Entry into Earth's Atmosphere of Space Debris Object CZ-5B R/B (2021-035B)

Description:

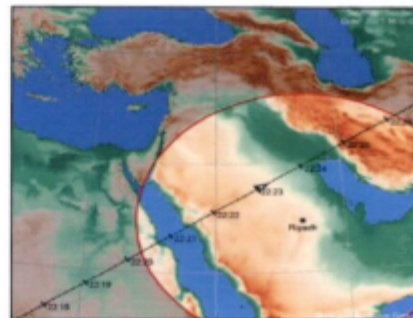
This SC is issued to raise awareness on the expected re-entry into Earth's atmosphere of the large space object CZ-5B R/B (2021-035B).

Based on the international efforts by various space and specialized agencies, it has been estimated that the debris will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a window on early morning AST (Atlantic Standard Time) 09 May (08/09 May UTC). Object CZ-5B R/B has an estimated mass ranging from 17 to 21 tons and a length of about 30 m, which makes it one of the largest pieces of debris re-entering the atmosphere during recent years, therefore it deserves careful monitoring. It is unlikely, however, that the debris will impact over a populated area, an airport or a major air route.

Although it is impossible to predict exactly where over the Earth the parts will fall within a few hours of impact, at the moment the following time window for the impact on Earth is provided:

- Window Start: 8 May, 23:38 UTC
- Window End: 09/05/2021, 08:28 UTC

Figure 1 – Estimated Locations of Falling Debris



In line with GACAR Part 175 (§175.125 Origination and issue of NOTAM), GACA has already issued the following NOTAM:

A0719/21 NOTAMN

Q) OEJD/QXXXX/IV/NBO/E /000/999/

A) OEJD B) 2105081928 C) 2105100001

E)ACFT OPERATORS ARE ADZ THAT A POTENTIAL HAZARD MAY OCCUR DUE TO REENTRY OF SPACE DEBRIS INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. GACA IS WORKING WITH RELEVANT AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THE MOST CURRENT RE-ENTRY INFO IS PROVIDED TO OPERATORS AS QUICKLY AS POSS. OPERATORS ARE ADZ TO CHECK THE EU SST AVBL INFO DIRECTLY AT WWW.EUSST.EU. FURTHER NOTAMS WILL BE ISSUED IF SPECIFIC INFO BECOMES AVBL. IN THE INTEREST OF FLT SAFETY, IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL PILOTS/FLT CREW MEMBERS REPORT ANY OBS FALLING SPACE DEBRIS TO THE APPROPRIATE ATC FACILITY AND INCLUDE POSITION, ALTITUDE, TIME, AND DIRECTION OF DEBRIS OBS.

Recommendation(s):

GACA recommends aircraft operators to:

- Monitor developments regarding the uncontrolled re-entry into Earth's atmosphere of large space object CZ-5B R/B (2021-035B) and adapt their risk assessment accordingly;
- Take into consideration the latest predictions published by GACA and the aforementioned international agencies.
- Instruct operator's dispatch / OCC about the need for monitoring of latest news from all channels and in case the territory of KSA should be impact and be ready to variations of operations

Contact(s):

For further information: contact the GACA Safety & Risk Management Directorate,

Email: SD@gaca.gov.sa

مساعد الرئيس لمعايير الطيران
Assistant President for Aviation Standards

الكابتن/ سليمان بن صالح المحمدي
Captain/ Sulaiman Saleh Almuhaimeidi

