

Safety Recommendation Number :	7 of 2002
AAIU Event Reference :	2002-0005
Date of Publication of Safety Recommendation :	25/02/2002

Safety Recommendation:

The Irish Aviation Authority should ensure that airports in the State, formalize a procedure, whereby airport fire services are allocated a discreet emergency working frequency in order that they can maintain continuous communications with the crew of a disabled aircraft. (Issued an interim safety recommendation)

Response:

Aer Rianta informed the AAIU by letter of 27 March 2002: "As you may be aware, equipment and facilities to enable the use of a discrete communications frequency are in place. Coordination and promulgation of the frequency is being progressed through the Irish Aviation Authority. You will also be aware that communication with the cockpit was established by Delta's ground service personnel shortly after the incident occurred, through which means information on activities around the aircraft was available to the captain."

The IAA informed the AAIU on 24 April 2002 that: "The Authority agrees objectively with this recommendation but is still examining the issue of enforcing it as such. Prior to the subject event, the Authority, acting on behalf of the ODTR (which is in fact the agency with the authority to allocate such frequencies at the present time) had requested and provided the frequency of 126.1 MHz to the crash rescue services at Dublin Airport as a dedicated ground frequency for crash rescue purposes. It evidently was not used on the subject date. It is, therefore, certainly possible to enable such a frequency, at least at the State airports. Since the above incident, in the light of the recommendation, the same frequency has been allocated to Cork and Shannon Airports. The Authority will include a reference to this frequency in the aerodrome licensing procedures and will endeavour to establish a procedure for its use when required. It is not proposed at this time to further extend the allocation of this frequency to other airports, in view of their limited traffic."

Return to main Report