



26th November 2025

VOLCANIC ASH HAZARD WARNING: HAYLI GUBBI VOLCANO

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The Safety Information (SI) aims to provide essential guidance to aviation stakeholders regarding the recent eruption of the Hayli Gubbi volcano and the potential impact of its Flight Information Regions (FIRs) and surrounding airspace.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Hayli Gubbi volcano located in Ethiopia began erupting on 23 November 2025 at 0830 UTC, with multiple subsequent eruptions observed. The eruptions released significant plumes of volcanic ash, reaching estimated heights of up to 45,000 feet and drifting east-northeast due to prevailing upper-level winds.
- 2.2 Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAAC) Tokyo and Anchorage have issued advisories indicating that ash clouds are spreading towards Japan FIR and may impact major international air routes, including various trans-East Asia corridors. Meteorological agencies have forecast continued ash dispersion at varying flight levels, with potential intensification depending on volcanic activity.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 Volcanic ash present serious hazards to aviation safety, including:
- a) Abrasion damage to aircraft windshields, external surfaces, and sensors
 - b) Degradation or failure of aircraft engines, particularly turbine-based engines
 - c) Contamination of pitot-static systems and interference with avionics
 - d) Reduced visibility and inaccurate instrument readings
 - e) Potential disruption to communication and navigation systems
- 3.2 Given the movement of the ash cloud across busy international air traffic routes, the likelihood of ash encounters increases significantly. Timely situational awareness, operational vigilance, and strict adherence to established avoidance procedures are critical.



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4 Recommendations

4.1 Air Operators

- a) Closely monitor advisories from VAAC, Notice to Airmen (NOTAMs), and official updates from CAAM and regional aviation authorities.
- b) Conduct risk assessments for flights operating near or transiting through affected airspace, including potential rerouting, altitude changes, or flight cancellations.
- c) Adhere strictly to volcanic ash avoidance procedures and guidelines.

4.2 Pilots

- a) Remain vigilant for visible signs of ash and comply with established volcanic ash avoidance procedures.
- b) Maintain real-time communication with ATC for updates on ash cloud location, intensity, and forecast movement.
- c) Report any suspected ash encounters immediately using standard reporting formats.

4.3 Passengers

- a) Stay updated on travel advisories and flight changes issued by airlines and relevant authorities.
- b) Remain flexible as flight operations may be adjusted due to safety considerations.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Hayli Gubbi volcanic eruption poses a potential threat to aviation safety within and in proximity to affected FIRs. All aviation stakeholders must remain vigilant, exercise caution, and adopt appropriate risk mitigation measures. The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) will continue to monitor developments and issue updates as necessary.



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26 November 2025