

Skyguide to lower its charges for 2005

Geneva, December 03, 2004. Skyguide, Switzerland's air traffic services organisation, is to lower its route and approach charges for 2005. The reductions are the product of a successful 2003 business year, efficient cost management, and rising traffic volumes in 2004. The current action may be further subject to any assumption of skyguide's costs by the Swiss Confederation, which is itself subject to Swiss parliamentary approval.

Skyguide finances its activities through the charges it levies for the services it provides. As a non-profit company, skyguide then passes any surplus in its results back to its customers in the form of charge reductions, and recoups any deficits it incurs by increasing these charge amounts. Charge levels are determined using a formula which is based on a specific charge structure and "unit rates".

Route charges to be reduced by 6.5 per cent

For 2005, the "unit rate" for route charges is to be reduced by 6.5 per cent or CHF 9.30 to CHF 133.14. Subject to its approval by Eurocontrol (Europe's overall air traffic services authority), the new rate will come into effect on January 1, 2005.

Example: an Airbus A321 flight from Zurich to Geneva carrying 186 passengers

- Route charge: CHF 330.59 (2004: CHF 353.68)
- Route charge per passenger: CHF 1.77 (2004: CHF 1.90)

Approach charges for heavy aircraft up to 15 per cent lower

On the approach charge front, skyguide will be making modifications to its overall charge structure. As a result, operators of aircraft over 24 tonnes will see a reduction of between 10 and 15 per cent in the approach charges they pay. The approach charges for aircraft up to 23 tonnes – including sports and leisure aircraft – will remain unchanged.

The new approach charges and charge structures must be approved by the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications and by the Swiss pricing monitoring authorities. They would then come into effect on April 1, 2005.

Example: an approach by an A340-600 (367 tonnes) carrying 372 passengers

- Approach charge: CHF 1 562.70 (2004: CHF 1 794.30)
- Approach charge per passenger: CHF 4.20 (2004: CHF 4.82)

Example: an approach by an A340-300 (268 tonnes) carrying 228 passengers

- Approach charge: CHF 1 273.90 (2004: CHF 1 439.90)
- Approach charge per passenger: CHF 5.60 (2004: CHF 6.31)

Example: an approach by an Airbus A321 (86 tonnes) with 150 passengers

- Approach charge: CHF 608.50 (2004: CHF 649.80)
- Approach charge per passenger: CHF 4.06 (2004: CHF 4.33)

Example: an approach by an Embraer 145 (22 tonnes) with 49 passengers

- Approach charge: CHF 250.20 (2004: CHF 250.20)
- Approach charge per passenger: CHF 5.11 (2004: CHF 5.11)

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Skyguide is responsible for providing air traffic services within Swiss airspace and in the airspace of certain adjoining regions in neighbouring countries. Skyguide is a non-profit limited company under private law. The majority of its shares are held by the Swiss Confederation. The company employs some 1 400 people at 11 locations in Switzerland, and generates annual operating revenues of over CHF 340 million.
