

Temporary shutdown of flight plan data system at skyguide in Geneva causes delays

Geneva, 19 June 2009. In the evening of Thursday 18 June 2009 at 18:40 the flight plan data system (SYCO) of skyguide shut down for approximately two hours in the control centre of Geneva. The exact cause of this temporary shutdown is still unknown and is currently under investigation. The air traffic controllers immediately followed the procedures to be used in such cases. During the time of shutdown, the upper airspace traffic was rerouted over the neighbouring States, as agreed with the European Central Flow Management Unit (CFMU) and with adjoining air traffic control centres. The airspace capacity was impacted by the incident, with an average of 40 minutes of delay for about 30 flights from and to Geneva. Safety was at all times guaranteed, and the separation minima between aircraft were always respected.

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Skyguide is responsible for providing air navigation services within Swiss airspace and in the airspace of certain adjoining regions in neighbouring countries. The company guides the civil and military aircraft entrusted to its care – almost 3 400 flights a day or 1.24 million a year – through some of the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe. Skyguide is a non-profit limited company which has its head office in Geneva. The majority of its shares are held by the Swiss Confederation. The company generates annual operating revenue of over CHF 372 million and employs some 1 400 people at 14 locations in Switzerland.
