

Editorial



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On 1 July 2002, EUROCONTROL established the High-Level European Action Group for ATM Safety, AGAS for short, to propose enhancements in ATM safety within the 41 States of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC). The Group consisted of senior safety experts from States, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP), International Organisations and aviation related associations. At the completion of its six months of work AGAS produced a Strategic Safety Action Plan for Enhanced ATM Safety (SSAP) that consists of a series of recommendations aimed at improving safety management and safety regulation across the ECAC States.

As part of the SSAP, 3 safety improvement initiatives are underway; Runway Safety, Level Bust, and Ground-Air Communications.

Runway Safety Initiative is well advanced and the European Action Plan for the Prevention of Runway Incursion is being implemented by the various stakeholders.

Eurocontrol Safety Improvement Initiatives follow a common lifecycle. The lifecycle consists of the following phases: Identification of Safety Issue; Initial Evaluation; Analysis of the causal factors and elaboration of recommendations; Adoption of an Action Plan; Implementation and Monitoring.

Level Bust Safety Initiative, aimed at reducing the number and potential consequences of level busts, began in 2001 and, after the successful adoption of the European Action Plan for the Prevention of Level Bust, is currently transitioning to the Implementation and Monitoring phase.

This Safety Letter provides further background to this initiative and the principle products, The Level Bust Action Plan and the Level Bust Toolkit, of this work.

Level Bust Toolkit



Reducing level busts is one of Eurocontrol's highest safety priorities. While the introduction of ACAS and ATM systems, such as Short Term Conflict Alert, have significantly reduced the risk of a mid-air collision, the frequency of level bust incidents is still a cause for concern.

Eurocontrol has developed an [Action Plan for the Prevention of Level Busts in Europe](#) and a [Level Bust Toolkit](#) to enable safety managers to implement its recommendations.



The Level Bust Toolkit is produced on CD-ROM. It has been designed for use by safety managers and gives the user access to the Action Plan and an Implementation Checklist which suggests a logical sequence of actions which will enable the safety manager to raise awareness of the level bust issue within an organisation and reduce the number of level busts. Both the Action Plan and the Implementation Checklists link to a series of briefing notes that give detailed information and guidance and which in-turn link to appropriate references and source material. There is also a tutorial package for pilots and controllers.

Level Bust Safety letter



Level Bust Action Plan

The level bust action plan is the product of work carried out by Eurocontrol's cross-industry Level Bust Task Force, which was set up in 2003. The Task Force reviewed the evidence available, identified the principal causal factors, and listened to the ANSPs and aircraft operators with experience in reducing level busts. The Action Plan contains recommendations for Air Traffic Management, Air Traffic Controllers, and Aircraft Operators, designed to reduce the frequency of level busts and reduce the risks associated with level busts. Implementation of the Action Plan will be monitored by the Task Force monitoring group reporting to the Eurocontrol Safety Improvement Sub Group (SISG).



Level Bust Briefing Notes

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Briefing Notes

- Gen 1:** Level Busts - Overview
- Gen 2:** Pilot-Controller Communications
- Gen 3:** Call Sign Confusion
- Ops 1:** Standard Operating Procedures
- Ops 2:** Altimeter Setting Procedures
- Ops 3:** Standard Calls
- Ops 4:** Aircraft Technical Equipment
- Ops 5:** ACAS
- Ops 6:** Human Factors
- Ops 7:** Safety Reporting - Operators
- ATM 1:** Understanding the Causes of Level Busts
- ATM 2:** Reducing Level Busts
- ATM 3:** Safety Reporting - ATM
- ATM 4:** Airspace & Procedure Design



Resources

The Toolkit contains a number of resources to support the Briefing Notes and to provide deeper background knowledge:

References: research papers, incident reports, journal articles related to the level bust issue

Awareness material: Eurocontrol safety letters and newsletters, powerpoint presentations, posters, and the highly acclaimed UK NATS video Level Best

Workshops

A series of regional workshops will start with a workshop in Brussels in October 2004 to be held at Eurocontrol HQ in partnership with IATA. These workshops will give an overview of the level bust issue, presentations from aircraft operators and ANSPs with experience in reducing level busts, and an introduction to the toolkit.

Further Information on these workshops can be found by visiting www.eurocontrol.int/safety

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Website

Web site info

Visit our Website:

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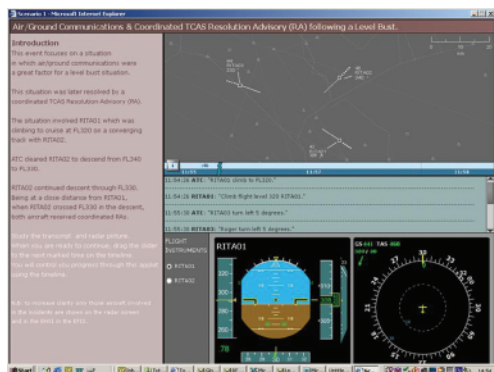
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Tutorial

Level Bust Tutorial module



The Toolkit includes an interactive tutorial module designed for Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers, developed in conjunction with Eurocontrol's Institute of Air Navigation Services in Luxembourg.

The Level Bust Tutorial Module features a series of scenarios, based upon actual level bust incidents, followed by a series of questions designed to allow the pilot or controller to make their own considered conclusions regarding the causal factors. The key learning points are then highlighted.

The Level Bust Tutorial Module follows two parallel themes of "aviation safety" and "human performance limitations" and contains the following topics:

- Airspace Design
- ATC Procedures
- Air/Ground Communications
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Aircraft Equipment
- ACAS

For access to on-line copies of the Action Plan and Level Bust Tutorial Module, and information on how to obtain a copy of the Level Bust Toolkit, visit www.eurocontrol.int/safety

