

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA Safety Division Infrastructure



Mitigations to reduce missing aircraft beeing "Overdue"

The search for overdue aircraft and as a direct result initiating the first stage within the search organization are the major duties performed by the Search and Rescue Coordination Center Switzerland (RCC). The measurements taken during 2008 are showing first results, yet "Overdue's" can be further reduced with your support.

The aim of the adhesive is to spread the knowledge of the fast, easy and free possibility to **close**, **cancel** or **delay** your **flightplan**. Stick this adhesive on your AIP, knee-board, flight log book, checklist, AMIE Briefing, briefing board etc. Store the number in your mobile device.

Please close your flightplan. Always!

Extract out of AIP VFR RAC 1-2-9

Aircraft become status overdue whenever:

- a FPL (or AFIL) has been filed and
- a departure message has been transmitted and
- the flight plan has not been closed within 30 minutes of the estimated time of arrival last notified.

Pilot responsibilities

The pilot shall

- advise FPL delays of more than 30 minutes, FPL changes (e.g. destination, route (EET) etc.)
- ensure that for each submitted FPL, a departure message results
- close each submitted FPL.

Exceptions:

Controlled civil aerodromes and Samedan, while on watch, are responsible for sending departure messages and closing FPL.

For flights diverting from FPL, this is strictly on the condition that the pilot has clearly announced all diversion details to ATS.

Note 1:

FPL may be closed while airborne - however, be aware that monitoring for overdue ceases at that moment.

Note 2:

Change from IFR to VFR is not a closure of the flightplan!

Note 3:

Controlled civil aerodromes are: Bern-Belp, Buochs, Les Eplatures, Geneva, Grenchen, Locarno, Lugano, St. Gallen-Altenrhein, Sion and Zürich.