

Chapter 1

Air Traffic Accident Trends

1 Air Traffic Accidents in Recent Years

The number of accidents of aircraft in Japan was 13 in 2016, in which 8 people were killed and 5 injured. In recent years, only a few aircraft accidents of large airplane have occurred per year, most of which are caused by air turbulence, and most of the air traffic accidents are that of small airplane.

►Table 3-1 Changes in the number of Air Traffic Accidents and Casualties

Year	Number of accidents								Number of casualties	
	Large airplane	Small airplane	Ultralight airplane	Helicopter	Gyro plane	Glider	Airship	Total	Fatality	Injury
2012	8	3	2	4	0	1	0	18	1	23
2013	1	4	1	3	0	2	0	11	2	14
2014	4	5	2	1	0	5	0	17	2	28
2015	3	9	3	3	1	8	0	27	10	42
2016	2	4	1	2	0	4	0	13	8	5

Note:

1. Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.
2. Data as of the end of December each year.
3. Include accidents of Japanese aircraft that occurred outside of Japan.
4. Include accidents of foreign aircraft that occurred in Japan.
5. Accidents/casualties regarding such as natural deaths or deaths caused by violence are not included.
6. The number includes those who died within 30 days after the accident and missing persons.
7. A large airplane is an airplane with a maximum takeoff weight of over 5.7 tons and a small airplane with that equal to or less than 5.7 tons.

2 Incidents Related to Air Traffic Safety during 2016

●Safety Issues involving Air Carriers

There were 10 cases of serious incidents which air carriers are obliged to report to the government in FY 2016.

Furthermore aviation accident involving passenger fatalities of specified domestic air carriers (domestic air carriers using aircraft with seats over 100 or the maximum takeoff weight exceeding 50,000 kg for air transport services) has not occurred since the crash of Japan Airlines Flight 123 at the mountain Osutaka in 1985.

Chapter 2

Overview of Current Air Traffic Safety Measures

1 Conversion to Comprehensive Safety Management

●Reinforcement of SMS (Safety Management System) for Business Provider

Guidance was provided to improve the quality of SMS, which is a mechanism for risk management related to safety by promoting safety performance indicators and safety performance targets directly linked to the measures to improve safety for the business alliance such as domestic air carrier. Specifically, for business providers such as new entrants of the air carriers or new airport operators based on the Private Entertainment Act who have very less experience about SMS measures, guidance, supervision and advice etc. were provided by maintaining close coordination so that the setting of safety performance indicators and safety performance targets can be implemented properly.

2 Ensuring Safe Operation of Aircraft

●Establishment of Operation Standards for Securing the Safe Operations

Regarding the standards for operation of aircraft in Japan, in order to comply with international standards that are being revised due to the development of new technologies and in response to the occurrence of serious accidents, international standards are being properly reflected in Japan's standards, by making changes on standards such as minimum quantity of aircraft fuel and aircraft collision avoidance system in FY 2016. At the same time, corresponding to the specific environment changes in Japan establishment of standards is being properly implemented. For example, considering continued falling of external loads suspending from aircraft, establishment of standard on safety measures on transporting external loads by suspending are properly implemented.

●Enhancement and Strengthening of the Transport Safety Management System

In accordance with “The Transport Safety Management system” which was introduced in October of 2006, the transportation companies build and improve the safety management system company-wide, and the government implement “The Transport Safety Management Audit” which is the system that the government checks the implementation status of The Transport Safety Management system of transportation companies. In 2016, the government implemented this audit on 12 companies.

3 Ensuring Aircraft Safety

●Improvement of Technical Standards of Maintenance and Inspection of Aircraft

In order to further improve the safety of aircraft and its components, in light of the status of the development of latest technologies and trends in the formulation of international standards, improvement of technical standards on the safety of aircraft and its components was implemented, in addition to the implementation of research on evaluation methods of new support function on aircraft for pilots.

4 Maintaining the Air Traffic Environment

●Promotion of Measures against Runway Incursion

Measures are promoted to prevent runway incursion caused by human error, including measures to prevent miscommunication between air traffic controllers and pilots by making the rule to read back of the air traffic controller's instructions for the pilots, and installation of Runway Status Light (RWSL) which visually displays and transmits the state of runway occupancy for air traffic controllers and pilots.