

Safety Bulletin

05 JULY 2018

Compliance with runway stop bars

Note: This Safety Bulletin replaces the Safety Bulletin published on 6 August 2013, which has been removed from the Airservices website.

Runway stop bars have been installed at many of the major Australian Airports to provide protection at runway/taxiway intersections. **However, there continue to be occurrences where pilots cross an illuminated stop bar, resulting in a runway incursion.**

Stop bars are intended to provide additional protection of runway/taxiway intersections to reduce runway incursions by:

- enhancing visibility of runway holding points
- reinforcing the control of aircraft and vehicles in the vicinity of holding points
- increasing the defence against controller error in aircraft or vehicle identification.

Stop bars also enable low visibility operations, such as CAT II/III instrument landing system approaches.

Stop bars are a series of unidirectional lights embedded in the pavement, at right angles to the taxiway centreline at the associated runway holding position. The lights are complemented by existing yellow Runway Guard Lights, MAG Signs and Pattern A runway holding point markings.

Stop bars show red in the direction of approach to the runway. Stop bars are managed by Air Traffic Control (ATC) and are active during tower hours. At some locations, when a stop bar is extinguished, a set of green 'lead on' lights will illuminate. Pilots should check AIP for aerodrome configuration information prior to operation.

Pilots are required to stop at the runway holding point and obtain a clearance from ATC prior to entering or crossing a runway. In addition to the clearance from ATC, the stop bar lights **must** be extinguished prior to the aircraft proceeding past the holding point.

Pilots must not cross a runway holding point until they have received verbal clearance from ATC AND the stop bar has been extinguished.

If you have been issued an instruction to proceed and the stop bar has not been switched off:

- DO NOT cross the illuminated stop bar **AND**
- Immediately query the instruction with ATC.

Can I EVER Cross an Illuminated Stop Bar?

It is possible that stop bars may malfunction and cannot be extinguished. In this case ATC will use specific phraseology to both advise that a stop bar is unserviceable and that it may be crossed while illuminated. These Contingency Procedures are detailed in AIP.

For more information

Airservices has produced an information sheet and a presentation on stop bars, which is available on the Airservices website: <http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/publications/safety-publications/>.

For further information please contact safety.communications@airservicesaustralia.com.