2 March 2009

Dear Member Associations:

On behalf of the IFATCA Executive Board, I have pleasure in supplying you with a copy of the STOPBARS – SURVEY REPORT, COMPILED by our Human Factors Specialist, Mr Bert Ruitenberg, based upon research conducted by our Global Airport Domain Team (GADT).

As you will be aware, the subject of runway safety is a critical focus area for everyone involved in the aviation industry, and the prevention of runway incursions has been an important element of this focus. The existence and use of stopbars is an increasingly important aspect of the prevention of runway incursions. But as you will read in this survey report, the use of this important safety feature is far from standardised.

TOC will be presenting a working paper to the annual conference in Dubrovnik in April, and this matter will also be discussed during the voluntary workshop on the Wednesday afternoon at conference. I urge your association to participate in this workshop.

This report is based upon the responses from a number of MAs to the GADT survey. This survey report is a very valuable and significant contribution to the effort of prevention of runway incursions and aerodrome safety. The GADT will be carrying out further research in this area in the future and I encourage all MAs to contribute to this important work.

Please review this report and consider its findings and your MA may be able to work with your local airport authority to improve the safe operation of stopbars.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Baumgartner
IFATCA PCX