



# NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Corporate Headquarters: Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Domestic Wing, Abuja.  
Tel: +234 811 115 0990, +234 811 115 113.

## ALL OPERATORS LETTER (AOL 085)

**CIRCULAR REF:** NCAA/DAWS/AD.1104/AOL 085/VOL.1  
**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
**TO:** All Airlines, Aircraft Operators and Aviation Fuel Suppliers  
**FROM:** Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority  
**ATTN:** Quality Manager/Director of Maintenance/Flight Operations  
**SUBJECT** **AIRCRAFT REFUELLING ISSUES AND SAFETY PROCEDURES**

### BACKGROUND

One of the most important topics in aviation safety is aircraft refuelling safety procedures and precautions. It is the ground handling operation with the highest risk factor as compared to other operations. There have been many flight accidents in history caused by fuel contamination resulting in abnormal operation of aircraft engines. Water, is a major contaminant amongst others.

In the recent times, the NCAA has been receiving mandatory occurrence reports from airlines and other aircraft operators with issues related to water being found in the aircraft fuel tank of the aircraft. Of recent is a report of a significant amount of water drained from the fuel tank of a Boeing 737 aircraft that had a fuel indication and gauge malfunction in-flight.

### NCAA'S DETERMINATION

The NCAA considers it necessary that knowledge of the potential risks and hazards associated with aircraft refuelling and how to mitigate them is important for any person involved in aircraft ground handling.

Due to procedures being inadequate or not followed, NCAA has made a determination of the urgent need for airlines, aircraft operators and aviation fuel suppliers to improve their refuelling procedures as documented in their Maintenance Control Manual/Refuelling Manual and the fuel suppliers Operations Manual/Quality Control Manual. These procedures include:

- (1) Inspection of Aircraft Refuelling Equipment by ground staff, is a workaround of the equipment with a visual inspection of fuel hose, gauges, tires and the overall body of the truck.
- (2) Testing/Checking Jet fuel quality before Refuelling by ground staff; with the primary concern being the presence of water in the fuel. It is mandatory that the airline, aircraft operator and the aviation fuel supplier personnel, take sample fuel from the

aircraft tanks before refuelling, take sample fuel from the fuelling bowser truck before refuelling and take sample fuel from the aircraft after refuelling with the samples disposed off at a time to be determined by airlines, aircraft operator and aviation fuel supplier.

### **APPLICABILITY**

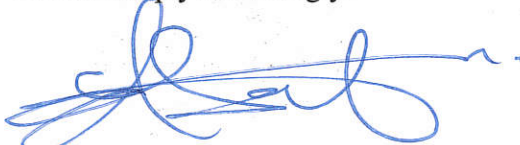
This AOL is applicable to all airlines, aircraft operators and aviation fuel suppliers operating in Nigeria.

### **ACTION REQUIRED**

All airlines, aircraft operators and aviation fuel suppliers are hereby required to comply as follows:

- 1) Amend the Maintenance Control Manual/Refuelling Manual, Aviation Fuel Operations Manual/Quality Control Manual and submit for the approval/acceptance of the NCAA within Sixty (60) days from date of issue of this AOL.
- 2) Ensure that the ground personnel are trained on these amended procedures.
- 3) Ensure strict compliance with it.

Please comply accordingly.



**Engr. Gbolahan Abatan**  
**Director, Airworthiness Standards**  
For: Director General of Civil Aviation