SUSPENSION OF BOEING 737 MAX AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS IN AIRSPACE OVER HONG KONG

1. This AIC is made following the accident of an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX aircraft on 10 March 2019. At this stage the cause of the accident is not known as investigation into its cause is still underway.

2. In light of the Lion Air accident on 29 October 2018 and the aforementioned accident, which happened in less than five months apart and both involved Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, the Director-General of Civil Aviation (‘DGCA’) deems it necessary in the public interest to stop the Boeing 737 MAX operations in Hong Kong while pending further information. The aim is to ensure aviation safety and protect the public.

3. In this connection, DGCA, being a person authorised pursuant to Article 98(1) of the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (‘the Order’), in exercise of its powers under Article 69(1) of the Order, hereby prohibits any Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, whether or not registered in Hong Kong, from operating in any airspace over Hong Kong with effect from 1000 UTC (1800 Hong Kong Time) on 13 March 2019 until further notice.

4. In the meantime, CAD will continue monitoring the situation closely and the prohibition will be reviewed as relevant information becomes available from the accident investigators, the US Federal Aviation Administration and other aviation authorities, as appropriate, and the Boeing Company.

This Circular is issued for information, guidance and necessary action by direction of the Director-General of Civil Aviation

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