

Noise and Community

Issue

Aircraft noise is a widespread and growing problem around the globe. With the increased environmental awareness and growing population density around the airport, community involvement on noise management is also rising. Aircraft landing and taking off contribute largely to aviation noise. Though individual aircraft have become quieter over the past years, however, flight frequencies have increased the noise level around the airport. In particular, landing noise is gaining importance, and has become the dominant reason for complaints. In addition, those living close to large airports may experience 'ground noise' from sources on the airport such as taxiing aircraft, aircraft engine tests, generators or airside vehicular traffic. Transport links to an airport, particularly private vehicles and trains etc. also make a significant contribution to noise around airports.

Background

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recommends the certification standards for the noise characteristics of aircraft in Annex 16, Vol-I. In India these criteria are then enforced by national regulatory authority "Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)". Though India is yet to establish noise regulations pertaining to aircraft noise, the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests specifies 4 area codes (A,B,C and D) with respect to ambient noise levels. The ambient noise levels are regulated and monitored by the state and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

ICAO has endorsed "The Balanced Approach to Noise Management". This approach consists of 4 principal elements with the goal to addressing noise issues in the most cost effective manner. The principal elements are reduction of noise at the source (quieter aircraft), compatible land use planning and management, noise abatement operational procedures and operating restrictions.

Relevance to DIAL

DIAL gives utmost priority to noise management in order to maintain excellent public image and positive community relations by responsive consultation with the communities. It is a constant endeavor by DIAL to influence the airlines and major stakeholders like Airports Authority of India (AAI), Air Traffic Control (ATC), and DGCA etc. to jointly come up with a constructive approach for curbing aircraft noise nuisance as an integrated aircraft noise management system.

DIAL Management and Actions

DIAL works in various fields to minimise the environmental impact of its operations. **Noise abatement** is one of the key areas the airport is focusing on. The followings are the various noise mitigation steps taken by DIAL:

- **Ambient noise monitoring** is being conducted regularly at different locations in and around the airport including the areas under the takeoff and landing funnels.
- All **equipment** operating within the airport is maintained in good working condition to reduce ground noise in the premises.
- The terminal buildings as well as all the offices within the airport boundary are **acoustically treated**.
- DIAL is an integral part of the '**working group on airport noise**' (WGAN) formed by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). This group is exploring various possibilities and developing feasible measures to reduce excessive noise in the vicinity of IGI Airport.
- DIAL is also in the process of establishing an '**aircraft noise monitoring systems**' (ANMS) in order to develop a database of aircraft noise. Monitoring of noise levels and tracking the aircraft will help in formulating measures to mitigation of aircraft generated noise.
- To lodge a complaint regarding aircraft noise in your area please call us at 011-47198600