

SEPLA advise caution for operations within Spanish airspace until at least 18 December

Following on from the disruptions to ATC provision which began on 27 November and escalating to a complete closure of the Madrid, Barcelona and Canaries FIRs from 2230UTC 3 Dec to 2030UTC 4 Dec the Spanish Government has applied legislation that has not been used since the establishment of a democratic constitution in 1978. Under the provisions of the “State of Alarm” ATC personnel are required by law to report for work and carry out their duties under the supervision of military officers. Under Spanish law the present “State of Alarm” is valid until 18 December although it may be renewed for a further 15 day period at the discretion of the Spanish Parliament.

IFALPA Member Association the Sindicato Espanol de Pilotos de Lineas Aereas (SEPLA), reports that although operations have returned to near normal over the last 24 hours they remain far from optimal and points out that no NOTAMs or special operating procedures have been issued to mitigate the situation. SEPLA also reminds pilots to be as cautious as possible with every interaction with ATC, from clearances to separations, and that earlier advice to take into account the present operational environment into flight planning and fuel requirements remains valid.

[Additional relevant information from IFALPA](#)

11SAB13 - Sudden airspace closures in the Madrid, Canaries & Barcelona FIRs