CertAlert

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This CertAlert pertains to:
All Airport Operators

**FAA Adopts ICAO Definition for Runway Incursions**

Effective October 1, 2007, the FAA will use the definition for a runway incursion that has been
adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The FAA helped ICAO come up
with its definition, which was adopted in November 2005. Before that definition was developed,
countries around the world used at least 20 different definitions for a runway incursion.

The new definition is: **Runway Incursion - Any occurrence at an aerodrome involving the
incorrect presence of an aircraft, vehicle or person on the protected area of a surface
designated for the landing and take-off of aircraft.**

The FAA is making the change so the worldwide aviation community will have a single runway
incursion definition, which in turn could help in the search to determine common factors that
contribute to these incidents.

The new definition means that some incidents formerly classified as surface incidents will now be
classified as C or D category runway incursions, which are low-risk incidents with ample time
and/or distance to avoid a collision. The FAA has always tracked surface incidents, in addition to
runway incursions. The new definition simply means that certain less severe incidents will be
classified differently. All incidents tracked in the past will continue to be tracked.

The classification of the most serious kinds of runway incursions, Categories A and B, remains
unchanged.

-- From your Safety Certification Team, FAA Southern Region