

FAA Background Information Regarding U.S. Civil Aviation – Pyongyang (ZKKP) Flight Information Region (FIR)

North Korea continues to conduct unannounced missile test launches from the east and west coasts of the Korean Peninsula. Some of the ballistic missiles have impacted into the Sea of Japan beyond the eastern boundary of Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) 79. (The eastern boundary of SFAR 79 is 132 degrees east longitude.) Therefore, these missile test launches pose a hazard to U.S. civil aviation, including flights operating on air routes B467 and G711.

SFAR 79 prohibits U.S. air carriers or commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by the FAA, except such persons operating U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of aircraft registered in the United States, except where the operator of such aircraft is a foreign air carrier, from flying in the Pyongyang (ZKKP) FIR west of 132 degrees east longitude.

During 2017, North Korea has launched a number of ballistic missiles that flew beyond the boundaries of the portion of the Pyongyang (ZKKP) FIR in which U.S. civil flight operations are prohibited by SFAR 79. On May 14, 2017, North Korea launched a medium to long-range missile that flew beyond 132 degrees east longitude and exited the Pyongyang FIR, landing in the water in the Russian Khabarovsk (UHHH) FIR. Additionally, on March 05, 2017, North Korea test-launched five suspected SCUD Extended-Range short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) into the Sea of Japan. Four of the missiles reportedly flew approximately 540 nautical miles (1000 kilometers) and traveled beyond 132 degrees east longitude before impacting in the Sea of Japan outside the Pyongyang (ZKKP) FIR, while the fifth missile reportedly suffered a failure while in flight. Further missile launches during 2017 are likely.

During 2016, North Korea conducted an extensive series of ballistic missile test launches between early spring and fall. Six of these missiles impacted east of the SFAR 79 eastern boundary. Missiles launched included intermediate-range ballistic missile launches from June through September 2016, and a series of submarine-launched ballistic missiles in July and August of 2016. Although North Korea has occasionally notified ICAO of upcoming missile launches, over the last

few years, Pyongyang has not notified ICAO or otherwise issued warnings to civil aviation prior to conducting missile launches.

During periods of heightened political tension, combined military exercises, and/or significant North Korean national anniversary dates, unannounced North Korean missile launches into and beyond the Pyongyang (ZKKP) FIR remain a possibility.

U.S. operators and airmen are advised to use caution when planning to operate in and around the Pyongyang (ZKKP) FIR east of 132 degrees east longitude and must report any observed rocket or missile launches near the Korean peninsula to the FAA at aeo-citewatch@faa.gov or +1 202-267-3203.