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AVIATION SAFETY ADVISORY CIRCULAR NO. 3 / 2023

Sub: Use of personnel mobile phone in the ATS and CNS units (HF R/T)

The use of personal mobile phones or electronic devices capable of communication, social Media, Video watching etc. by ATCOs and HF Operators while on operational duty may distract themselves and other executives in the unit affecting the quality & efficiency of Air Traffic Services and may also compromise with the safety of Aircraft operations.

In this connection, the instructions are already issued vide MATS-1 para 3.11.1 and 3.11.2.

Quote "3.11.1 - Use of personal mobile phones in ATC operational areas is not permitted. The air traffic controllers shall keep their personal mobile phones on 'switched-off/ silent' mode when entering ATC operational areas. This shall apply to all Visitors including CNS/ ATSEP/ Engineering/ Maintenance/ Housekeeping Personnel.

3.11.2 - All ATC units shall have a notice displaying "USE OF PERSONAL MOBILE PHONES NOT PERMITTED. PLEASE KEEP IN SWITCHEDOFF/ SILENT MODE." unquote.

However, despite these instructions in vogue, during the Aviation Safety Audit of various ANS centers and the CNS facilities, it is observed that there are occasions when ATCOs and HF Operators on watch at active ATS positions, Alpha/ Coordinator positions, HF or HF Coordinator positions are found to be using the mobile phones. This has been viewed seriously by the management as it is not only a violation of instructions issued but is also a safety hazard.

It is, therefore, instructed that henceforth, ATCOs and HF Operators shall not keep their personal mobile phones and/or any electronic device capable of communication, social Media, Video watching etc. with them while on watch at active ATS positions, Alpha/Coordinator positions, HF or HF Coordinator positions as applicable and shall keep it either in the individual's bag/locker or deposit it to the WSO/ SSO.

The ATS and CNS – In charges shall ensure strict compliance of the above and existing instructions of MATS-1 on the subject.

(Rajeev Mehta)

Executive Director (Aviation Safety)

Distribution: As per standard list