Worldcue® Alert

Severity: Informational Alert

Transportation: SITUATION REPORT: US orders emergency inspection of 175 older Boeing 737-300 jets. Some flight delays and cancellations possible.

This alert affects United States

This alert began 05 Apr 2011 14:06 GMT and is scheduled to expire 10 Apr 2011 23:59 GMT.

Situation Report

The US Federal Aviation Authority announced April 5 that it will order emergency reviews of specific older model Boeing 737-300s, in search of the fatigue cracks that forced Southwest (WN) to cancel hundreds of flights in early April.

Background and Analysis

The order is directed at any 737-300 jet that has accrued over 30,000 take offs and landings, or cycles, and is expected to cover at least 175 planes globally, including 80 planes operated by Southwest. Deutsche Lufthansa AG (LH) is the world's second largest operator of 737-300 jets after Southwest and could be forced to check any jets that operate over the US. Alaska Air Group (AS), which also operates a fleet of older 737-300s could also review its jets. Southwest announced that its inspections are likely to be completed April 6, but further cancellations from Southwest and other carriers are possible.