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TRAVEL ADVISORY

Alert Severity: Warning

US - Aircraft Groundings - Nationwide

Transportation alert for New York City, New York, Denver, Colorado, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, Atlanta, Georgia, Chicago, Illinois, Las Vegas, Nevada, Baltimore, Maryland, Miami, Florida, Houston, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona, Los Angeles, California, Oakland, California, Newark, New Jersey, Orlando, Florida, Washington, DC, Charlotte, North Carolina, San Francisco, California (Mar 13, 2019 7:44 PM - Mar 15, 2019 11:59 PM)

Summary

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced March 13 that it would temporarily ground all 737 MAX aircraft operated by US airlines and ban the 737 MAX from US airspace following the crash of Ethiopian Airlines (ET) Flight ET-302 near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 10. Southwest Airlines (WN), American Airlines (AA), and United Airlines (UA) all operate the 737 MAX; sporadic flight cancellations and delays are likely at all three carriers, but widespread disruptions are unlikely.

The groundings do not affect earlier generation 737 aircraft, including the 737-700, 737-800, 737-900, and 737-900ER. Any future groundings are highly unlikely to affect these aircraft.

- **Event:** Boeing 737 MAX grounding
- **Location:** Nationwide ([map](#))
- **Date:** March 13
- **Impact:** Sporadic Southwest, United, and American Airlines flight disruptions

Background and Analysis

Concerns about the Boeing 737 MAX date back to the October 2018 crash of Lion Air Flight JT-610 near Jakarta, Indonesia. The investigation into the crash revealed that an issue with one of the aircraft's control systems, the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), had played a role in the crash. It is not yet possible to determine if the MCAS played a

role in the ET-302 crash, but the US and Canadian groundings appear to have been influenced by data indicating that the crash was consistent with an MCAS issue.

The US grounding, together with a simultaneous grounding in Panama, means that all 737 MAX aircraft worldwide are grounded as of March 13.

The duration of the grounding of the 737 MAX will likely be determined by the data from Flight ET-302's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder, also known as the "black boxes," which authorities have recovered. Data from the black boxes will likely be available within a week, unless authorities have difficulty retrieving the data.

If the data show that the MCAS likely played a role in Flight ET-302's crash, the worldwide grounding will likely remain in effect until Boeing resolves the MCAS issue. If the data show that the MCAS did not play a role in the accident, authorities worldwide will likely end all groundings.

Advice

If traveling on American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, or United Airlines, confirm all flights, and allow extra time for travel through airports. If necessary, book alternative flights as soon as possible, as such flights are likely to fill quickly.



