



Australian Government

**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**
Australian Antarctic Division

Airbus 319 Flight Policy

Version 2.4 (August 2009)

1. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework or a set of 'business rules' for the operation of flights from Australia to Antarctica in support of the Australian Antarctic program.

The policy minimizes short and long term fatigue issues and provides a degree of certainty around flight planning and scheduling while recognizing the unpredictable nature of Antarctic operations.

The objectives of this policy are to:

- a. Establish general principles for the planning, scheduling and conduct of intercontinental flights;
- b. Provide a framework in which internal and external stakeholders are able to operate;
- c. Provide guidance on the likely frequency of operations to assist stakeholders in their planning;
- d. Promote strategies to ensure that flights are optimised to ensure the efficient use of government resources.

2. APPLICATION

The development of each season's flight program will reflect the support requirements for that year. However, the following guiding principles and issues should be considered for the planning and conduct of each season.

1. Flight Season

- Flights are conducted during the summer months. The commencement date and completion date for each season will depend on the support requirements for each season (nominally Nov to Feb). Note: Flights outside of this period may require additional resources.

2. Frequency of Flights

- Normal flight frequencies:
 - a. No more than one flight a week (generally on a Tuesday) should be scheduled during a season; and.
 - b. No more than two flights should be conducted within a week.
- Exceptions to above frequency:
 - a. At the start and end of a season it is anticipated that the tempo of flights will increase to cater for the deployment and redeployment of projects and support staff. During these periods there could be 2-3 flights in a 5-10 day period. In these cases all other operations on station will be limited.
 - b. Non scheduled flights may occur in response to an emergency.

3. Flight Timings

- At times during the summer, flights will be constrained by temperature and friction issues at Wilkins Runway. Flights during this period may only occur during “night” hours.
- Support requirements for flights are to be scheduled for business hours
- Flights should be scheduled to minimize impact on weekend work, Christmas/New Year and ship departures and arrivals.

4. Flight Management

- During the flight season, coordination issues will be discussed at the weekly air operations coordination meeting each Friday afternoon.

5. Flight Delays

- We anticipate that unsuitable weather will delay flights throughout the season. If a planned flight cannot depart within 3 hours of the scheduled departure, the flight will be postponed by at least 24 hrs. (Flights will not depart after the 3hr postponement period, even if the weather is forecast to improve within this period).
- If a flight is delayed, it will not necessarily mean a movement in the date for the following flight/s. These situations will be reviewed at the weekly air operations coordination meeting.

6. Aircraft Capability / Limitations

- The aircraft can seat up to 28 passengers on each flight.
- The total number of people on the aircraft could be 35.

7. Passenger Luggage

Total passenger luggage is strictly limited to 45kgs per person plus the AAD issued red survival kit-bag

- All passenger luggage checked in at the airport is limited to a maximum weight of 15kgs per individual item.
- Carry-on luggage is limited to the AAD issued red survival kit-bag, plus an additional bag weighing no more than 7kg

8. Aircraft Cargo Hold:

The A319 has the capacity to carry high priority small to medium sized cargo. Aircraft cargo is limited to a total of 6 cubic meters / 1,300kgs of ambient cargo on each flight

For processing reasons;

- ❖ All Flight-Cargo must be lodged in the eCon system, and
- ❖ Delivered to AAD Supply Services Facility/ Station Store by 3.30pm on the Thursday prior to the scheduled flight

For manual handling reasons, you should pack/ break-down consignments to ensure;

- ❖ Maximum 20kg per package
- ❖ Maximum allowable dimensions for each individual package to be no more than 190cm x 50cm x 50cm
- ❖ Labeled with Flight Number, Station, eCon number and senders contact details

If your cargo item exceeds the above limitations you must contact Supply Services Manager with a request to consider acceptance of a larger and/or overweight item prior to lodging your cargo.

NB - Cargo that exceeds the above requirements and has not been subject to a request will not be processed and may not be flown on the preferred flight

9. Pre-departure Training

- 3 day compulsory pre-departure training programs will be conducted for all expeditioners. Exemptions for non attendance must be directed to Operations Support in OS&C (this includes those who have attended previously) for consideration
- All passengers must attend the pre-flight departure training (approx 2 hours) which takes place on the afternoon prior to scheduled departure

NOTE: everyone travelling south is to be attached to an approved project to ensure appropriate environmental authorisations (approvals/permits). A general project may need to be entered in AAO for round trippers etc.