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Zurich Airport (LSZH):

Arrival prioritization and departure restrictions during easterly wind conditions

1. Background:

Occurring easterly wind conditions, that were predicted by meteorological forecasts with only low or medium probabilities to exceed 10kt tailwind component, may require an unanticipated operational change of the main departure runway from RWY 28 to RWY 10. This can result in a temporary reversal of departure flow, prompting Zurich Tower and Approach to prioritize arriving traffic for safety and sequencing reasons.

In case of change of the main departure runway to RWY 10, air traffic control may need to reduce or temporarily suspend departures to ensure safe spacing between arrival and departure operations due to the interdependent nature of RWY 10 departures and RWY 14 arrivals. This may result in:

- Significant start-up delays for departing aircraft.
- Temporary departure stops until arrival traffic volume permits resumption of outbound movements.

2. Operational Impact

Therefore, while RWY 28 is the main departure runway, departing aircraft up to and including ICAO Aerodrome Reference Code Letter C, that are unable to accept tailwind component up to 10kt to depart from RWY 28 have to anticipate extended start-up delays when requesting an alternate departure runway due to dependent runway operations. It remains the responsibility of the pilot-in-command of an aircraft to decide whether a departure from RWY 28 is acceptable.

3. Validity

These operational measures are effective from 22 JAN 2026 until further notice. Any modification to this procedure will be promulgated through NOTAM.

4. References

Affected AIP section: LSZH AD 2.20 LOCAL AERODROME REGULATIONS

Related charts: None

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