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SHG Press Office

# St Helena Airport

## SA Airlink Adds to its Fleet of Embraer E190s

In March 2018, SA Airlink took delivery of their latest Embraer E190 aircraft – registration ZS-YAD. This aircraft is the fourth in their E190 fleet and the first to be fitted with the CF34-10E6 engines that will allow a greater payload to be flown. Airlink expect to take delivery of another aircraft with the same specifications in June or July of this year, and intend to use this aircraft along with ZS-YAD on the St Helena service.

With a greater payload comes the opportunity to increase the number of passengers. The number of seats available on any one flight depends on a number of factors, including the weather conditions on the day, but it is anticipated that around 85 seats will be available on the flight to St Helena, and around 96 seats on the return to South Africa.

The increased payload also allows for a greater cargo capacity, and this is anticipated to have a positive effect on the ability to import and export goods, including fresh produce.

The new aircraft will be able to carry stretchers by way of a bespoke system, allowing patients to be accommodated on the aircraft, as well as allowing for safe boarding and disembarking.



The new Embraer E190 aircraft  
on the apron at St Helena Airport

Credit: Marten Fourie

## 100th Aircraft Refuelled at St Helena Airport

On 24 February 2018, an Airlink Embraer E190 (registration ZS-YAA) was the 100th aircraft to be refuelled at St Helena Airport.

In total, 431,701 litres of Jet A1 fuel have been used to refuel the first 100 visiting aircraft at the Airport. These have ranged from small executive jets through to C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

The logistics of obtaining, shipping and handling Jet A1 fuel on-Island is complicated and requires many systems in place to ensure the refuelling of aircraft is safe. Penspen, the Fuel Management Contractor, continues to work with Solomon and Company (St Helena) Plc, Basil Read, and St Helena Government, to ensure ongoing fuelling operations are safe and sufficient to meet an increasing demand for Jet A1 fuel.

## AIRPORT PROJECT INFORMATION LINE - Tel: 24026

### Contact Details

St Helena Government  
Airport Directorate  
Tel: +290 22494

### Email:

[sharon.zumbika@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:sharon.zumbika@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Halcrow  
Project Management Unit  
Tel: +290 24258

Email: [Miles.Leask@ch2m.com](mailto:Miles.Leask@ch2m.com)

Basil Read  
Contractor  
Tel: +290 24026

Email: [pr@brshap.co.za](mailto:pr@brshap.co.za)

Visit us online at [www.sainthelenaaccess.com](http://www.sainthelenaaccess.com) and on Facebook

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## A Day in the Life of a Security Officer - Flight Operational Day

The role of a Security Officer is to assure the protection and safety of passengers, crew, staff, general public, Airport facilities and the aircraft at St Helena Airport (HLE). Therefore, strict security procedures must be maintained and adhered to at all times. There are a number of restrictions which apply to persons travelling on an aircraft, staff, visitors and to members of the public and it is the responsibility of a security officer to make sure everyone utilising St Helena Airport comply with all the regulations and procedures in order to guarantee everyone's safety.

From 6.30am to the Point-of-No-Return following the departure of an aircraft, a security officer's day begins with a brief which is given by the Security Manager or Security Supervisor to inform all security staff of any changes or requirements. In preparation for the arriving flight, security is required to carry out equipment checks, patrols of the perimeter fence, security sweeps of all Airport facilities, review and monitor CCTV footage and complete all relevant documentation to certify that the Airport is safe and that no unauthorised access has taken place. Security is responsible for providing access control for all persons accessing the Airport site during the open and operational hours of the Airport; all activities are closely monitored to ensure the environment is free from accidental/malicious harm, crime and other potential threats.

A Security Officer will security screen staff, passengers, and crew before granting access to any of the Airside or Security Restricted Areas of the Airport. Hold and Carry-On baggage is examined by the use of an X-Ray machine to ensure that no devices, prohibited items, or harmful substances are taken on board the aircraft. All persons are screened by walking through a Walk Through Metal Detector (WTMD). To satisfy any alarms, a body search is carried out, or for any items of concern in either hold or carry-on baggage, a hand search is conducted. A Security Officer is required to ask a number of security questions to satisfy his or her concerns before the person and their belongings are permitted access to the Airside and Security Restricted Areas.

As, and when deemed necessary, security is also required to conduct a search of the aircraft's interior for the purpose of discovering prohibited items or suspicious items and the accessible exterior of the aircraft in order to detect prohibited articles and unlawful interference that jeopardise the safety and security of the aircraft.



## A Day in the Life of a Security Officer - Flight Operational Day *continued*



Once all crew and passengers have boarded the aircraft, and following the flight's departure, a security sweep of the Airport facilities and patrols of the perimeter fence is carried out to ensure that there has been no unwanted intrusions or left items/baggage which could impose a risk to the Airport. A Security Officer must ensure that the Airport site is left secured.

Security Officers are required to be the first on site and the last to leave, he or she must be vigilant and cautious with confidence to approach and question any anomaly they discover. Communication is key between all security staff members.

A Security Officer forms part of the Airport authority and they are responsible for ensuring the safety and security needs of all persons accessing the Airport site and that standards are implemented, maintained, and most importantly complied with at all times.

Remember, security is everyone's business.

## Haul Road Remains Closed

The public is reminded that the Haul Road - from Rupert's through to Reggie's Takeaway at Bottom Woods - remains a part of the Airport Project and is still a construction site. The road is therefore closed to all members of the public.

The public is thanked for their cooperation.

