



Civil Aeronautics Administration

Aviation Safety Bulletin

ASB No: 107-001-ATC

January 29, 2018

Subject : Flight Crewmember Should Be Aware of Possible Altitude Unit Change and the Corresponding Altimeter Setting During ATC Handover and Follow ATC Instructions.

Background :

An aircraft of a national carrier descended below ATC assigned altitude and resulted in ATC violation during the flight to Macao. The controller of Hong Kong instructed the flight crewmember to descend from 17,000 feet to 2,700 meters. However, the pilots failed to switch the altimeter unit from feet to meters and the aircraft descended below 2,700 meters.

Recommendations :

Air operators should readdress the following recommendations:

- Review and/or revise the operating procedure pertaining to the change of the altimeter unit and the following check in company's operational manuals.
- Follow the SOPs. Any questions about the ATC instructions, re-confirm with ATC.
- Improve CRM communication skills. Flight crewmembers should crosscheck/confirm with each other about the altitude unit used within each ATC area.
- The requirements to maintain flight level and/or flight altitude, refer to the Rules of the Air and section 8.5.5 of ICAO Doc. 4444.