

A day in the life of an Airside Operations and Safety Controller



0600 – Morning shift report for duty

0630 – Airport Opens

1415-1430 – Morning Shift handovers to Afternoon Shift

2300 - Afternoon shift finish and Airport Closed

The Airport Control Center (ACC) Duty Controller will liaise with Airport Fire Service (AFS) and Air Traffic Control (ATC) to conduct tests of emergency service call lines and radios prior to airport open.

At the beginning of the day we check all our vehicles to ensure that they are suitable and fit for all operational duties.

Prior to airport opening, it is Airside Operations responsibility to check all airside areas for cleanliness and also to inspect the runway and taxiway for any faults or lighting defects. We will also give a runway and Aerodrome Ground Lighting (AGL) state to ATC prior to airport opening. When all these checks are complete, permission can be given by the Airport Duty Manager to open the airport for flights to operate.

Whilst the airport is open Airside Operations duties can include:

- Vehicle Escorts;
- Runway Inspections;
- Aerodrome Lighting Inspections;
- Monitoring the safety of all those involved with the aircraft turnaround (arrival through to departure of the aircraft);
- Aircraft Marshalling;
- Aircraft Stand Planning;
- Responding to Emergency Calls;



- Aircraft Emergency Situations;
- Co-ordinating with the Airport Fire Service (AFS) for live fire training, fire alarm testing, test turnouts, training drills;
- Attending to General Aviation (GA) which includes duties such as: forwarding their flight plans, escorting crew and passengers from and to the aircraft.

Airside Operations are responsible for completing multiple runway inspections each day making constant checks to ensure that runway lights, paint markings and aerodrome signage are all in working order and that all ground surfaces are in a safe condition free from FOD (Foreign Object Debris).

Airside Operations are focused on ensuring that everyone who enters the airside area, Passengers, visitors and staff, and that aircraft movements are all conducted in a safe environment.