

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



ARE THE ROLES ON BOARD CLEAR?

In general aviation, there has not been much discussion about two pilots in the cockpit of an aircraft. There is generally no requirement for multiple pilots in GA aircraft as is normally the case in commercial aviation multi-pilot aircraft. Progress in multi-crew cooperation in multi-pilot aircraft has been extensive in recent decades and much has been written and discussed on how best to manage the cooperation of the crew on board. In general aviation there may be situations where two pilots are at the controls and in that regard The Icelandic Transport Authority would like to cover some important safety issues.

IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION - COORDINATION

There may be many reasons why two pilots go on a general aviation flight together. It may be flight instruction or e.g. two friends going on a recreational flight together.

Danger can arise if care is not taken to discuss before the flight who is responsible for the flight and who will be in control in case of emergencies.

By doing a departure briefing before take-off, you have decided who is in control if a problem arises. It is customary for the captain of an aircraft to sit on the left side, but that is not necessarily a confirmation of who is in control. An example of this is e.g. in flight instruction.

It is important to have a conversation before departing on a flight and that conversation could be something like this:

A flight instructor and a student pilot are embarking on a flight.

THE FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR informs the student that in the event of an emergency before or after take-off the student will be in control of the aircraft **UNTIL** the flight instructor says;

„MY CONTROL“

THE STUDENT PILOT shall then reply back;

„YOUR CONTROL“.

The same is true when friends go on a flight together. You have to decide before taking off who is responsible and who is to control the aircraft..

Happy landings!