

THE USE OF BIRDSTRIKE STATISTICS AS AN AERODROME BIRD HAZARD CONTROL AUDITING TOOL

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Abstract

It is difficult to find quantitative measures, or Performance Indicators (PIs), applicable to auditing Aerodrome Bird Hazard Control performance.

Bird numbers vary geographically, temporally, and in response to local factors including weather and food supply, and so give us little hope of providing a universally applicable PI.

Most auditors and managers, understandably, turn to birdstrike statistics as a PI. Birdstrike numbers are generally accepted to be useful at aerodrome level, but as a comparative tool as they are too closely related to aircraft movement figures. In recognition of this, the most common approach is the use of birdstrike rates per 10,000 aircraft movements. But how useful are these rates, and are they a valid means of assessing performance?

Key words: bird strike rate, statistics, reporting, standards