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Subject: DC-10 Firefighting Air Tanker Operational Weight Information

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is intended to provide general information regarding the operational weights of the DC-10 Very Large Air Tanker (VLAT) used in aerial firefighting operations.

10 Tanker DC-10 aircraft have been modified for aerial firefighting operations and operates without the center landing gear installed. As a result of this configuration, the aircraft operates at a reduced maximum takeoff weight (MTOW) of 420,000 pounds, compared to the original certified MTOW of 555,000 pounds. The maximum landing weight (MLW) for the aircraft in this configuration is 363,500 pounds.

For routine firefighting missions, the aircraft typically operates well below these maximum limits. Normal operational weights are as follows:

- Typical takeoff weight: approximately 380,000 pounds
- Typical landing weight: approximately 290,000 to 260,000 pounds

These reduced operational weights reflect the nature of the firefighting mission, which involves loading retardant, conducting a single or limited number of drops, and returning to base at significantly lower weights.

This information is provided to assist airport authorities and management in evaluating pavement loading, ramp operations, and overall compatibility with DC-10 VLAT operations. Should additional technical data, pavement loading characteristics, or operational details be required, we are happy to provide them upon request.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or for further clarification.