

## FREQUENT ENGINE FAILURES PROMPT AIRCRAFT IMPORT DUTIES BE ABOLISHED

BY KIRILL LEBEDEV, IFS SENIOR ANALYST, MAY 28, 2009

Russia's government takes all efforts to protect the domestic aircraft industry. That is why it keeps high aircraft import duties, promotes cooperation with world's leading aircraft manufacturers and continues to consolidate the industry. This policy, however, has not brought any sound results so far; and brand new Russian aircraft failures prove that.

Red Wings' Tu-204 made an emergency landing in Sochi this April. The incident was caused by failure in one of its twin engines. All the passengers were fortunate to avoid injury, yet the company considers withdrawal this type of airliners from service. The Sochi accident has been the sixth PS-90A engine (manufactured by Perm Engines) failure, and this happened only in Tu-204s.

### *PS-90A engine incidents (Tu-204)*

Date	Airline	Cause
March 2007	DalAvia	Failure
October 2007	VladivostokAvia	Fire
April 2008	VladivostokAvia	Failure
March 2008	Turkey's airline	Surge
August 2008	VladivostokAvia	Failure
April 2009	Red Wings	Failure

Along with Tu-204-100(300)s, PS-90A are used in Il-96-300(400)s that are also reported to have got in accidents. Notably, the presidential airplane also features a PS-90A engine, which is a good promotion to the Perm-based plant.

However, frequent engine failures affect trust in the Russian aircraft industry. As a result, the Red Wings airline might refuse to buy another nine Tu-204-100s. Experts estimate that aircraft plant Aviastar-SP (located in Ulianovsk) might lose more than \$300 million because of their refusal. Such losses, along with falling exports (foreign airlines have ordered only six Russian airplanes by now) will be detrimental for the troubled Russian aircraft industry.

The best solution would be using foreign engines for Russian airplane production – in this case the industry will surely receive orders for new airliners.

And, importantly, engine failures should prompt cancellation of airliner import duties.