

## **Extension of Kobe Airport's runway repavement period**

Kansai Airports Kobe (KAP Kobe) is extending the period of ongoing repavement work on Kobe Airport's runway as it learned the newly repaved surface does not fully meet its specifications. Although this does not affect the safety of aircraft operations, KAP Kobe has decided to extend the period to do rework.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause to passengers and stakeholders. We will continue moving forward with this work while putting safety at the forefront of our minds.

### **1. Overview of repavement work**

Scope of work: Repave the surface course of the entire runway, including modifying runway slopes.

Original period: March 2020 to May 2021

Revised period: Under coordination

Contractor: Toa Road Corporation

### **2. Background**

We found that asphalt mixtures used in some of the areas newly repaved in the ongoing work do not meet the specifications designated by KAP Kobe. Specifically, the asphalt's density is below the designated value. The cause was that Toa Road used asphalt mixtures that contain materials other than those approved by KAP Kobe. Toa Road procures asphalt mixtures from three asphalt production plants, and during the period from September to December 2020, one of them supplied the unapproved mixtures to Toa Road, which were then used in this repavement work.

While there is no problem with the operation of the runway for the time being, the mixtures could affect its long-term durability (e.g., early deterioration of asphalt pavements). KAP Kobe therefore has decided to repave once again all the areas covered by the original repavement plan.

### **3. Safety of runway**

While some asphalt mixtures used in this work do not meet KAP Kobe's specifications, the runway still provides necessary strength for the safe operation of aircraft.

\*This case doesn't involve any noncompliance with regulatory requirements for runway pavements.

We received the following comment and advice from outside experts:

- The pavement condition is unlikely to become worse in the short term. Thus, there isn't any problem with the operation of the runway for the time being.
- However, the pavements concerned should be replaced as soon as possible from a long-term durability standpoint.
- While rapid pavement deterioration is unlikely to occur, the pavement condition should be monitored through regular airfield inspection going forward.

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