

Russia's Aeroflot Cancels Dozens of Flights Following Tragic Plane Crash

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Russia's national flag carrier Aeroflot has canceled at least 50 Sukhoi Superjet 100 (SSJ 100) flights since a crash landing of the Russian-made aircraft killed 41 people last week.

The deadly SSJ landing in Moscow on May 5 ended in the plane's tail section catching fire on the runway and [raised](#) questions about the jet's safety. A day after the disaster, regional carrier Yamal Airlines said it was [canceling](#) its planned purchase of 10 SSJ 100 planes.

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Approximately 50 Aeroflot flights using Superjets have been canceled in the week since the deadly crash landing, the *Kommersant* business daily [reported](#) on Monday.

“There were many SSJ 100 cancellations and replacements before the crash,” Boris Rybak, head of the InfoMost aviation research and public relations company, was quoted as saying.

“Aeroflot tried not to make it public, but up to one-third of the aircraft were grounded.”

The Superjets had suffered malfunctions in the past but increased media scrutiny forces pilots to cancel flights, added Oleg Panteleyev, an analyst at the Aviaport industry information agency.

In the latest case of heightened precautions, an Aeroflot flight SU 1206 turned around and landed back in Moscow’s Sheremetyevo Airport half an hour after takeoff early in the early hours of Monday.

The pilot made the decision following a malfunction with the cockpit pressure mechanism, an unnamed source at Sheremetyevo told Interfax.

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