



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Twentieth Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-Group
(ATM/AIS/SAR/SG/20)**

Singapore, 05 – 09 July 2010

Agenda Item 4: Review and Progress the Tasks Assigned to the ATM/AIS/SAR/SG by APANPIRG

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ICAO EUR/NAT REGIONAL DATABASE FOR THE FIVE-LETTER NAME-CODES ALLOCATIONS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the status of development of the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Database (ICARD) as the five-letter name-code (5LNC) allocation management system.

This paper relates to

Strategic Objectives:

A: Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety

D: Efficiency – Enhance the efficiency of aviation operations

Global Plan Initiatives:

GPI-7: Dynamic and flexible ATS route management

GPI-8: Collaborative airspace design and management

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since October 1995, ICAO Europe and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Office and EUROCONTROL have been working together to develop and maintain a common database of facilities and services required for international air navigation within the EUR Region. In February 1998, the first Internet application on the EUROCONTROL website was developed to support the allocation process of five-letter name-codes (5LNC) used for the identification of significant points for ATS routes. This application was named ICAO Five-Letter Name-Codes and Route Designators Database (ICARD).

1.2 The coordination of 5LNC among States and ICAO Regional Offices is very complex and time-consuming process using a paper-based methodology. The advent of the Internet has made itself a suitable tool to address the 5LNC management process from one central and global database.

2. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

2.1 This web-based system allows end-users to electronically view, search, reserve, allocate, modify and receive a confirmation of the assigned code. If the user is an authorized member State user or an ICAO Regional Officer, the user can search, reserve, allocate, modify 5LNC from the reserve list of 140,000 codes while ensuring worldwide uniqueness, and browse the entire assigned 5LNC database. The web-based system allows users to visualize geographically all 5LNC.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 From the past record of requesting 5LNCs and the size of the flight information region, the Regional Office selected and received positive responses from Australia, Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand to participate in the initial phase of trial operation of ICARD. These nominated States provided the names and contact details of suitably authorized ICARD users (route planners). Accordingly, Australia, Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand became authorized users of ICARD in January 2007.

3.2 The 18th meeting of Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/18, September 2007) recognized the considerable benefits of using the ICARD system and encouraged all States in ASIA/PAC Region to join the operation at the earliest opportunity. In support of this initiative, the meeting agreed to Conclusion 18/11 – Endorsement of the Use of ICARD System.

3.3 ATM/AIS/SAR/SG/18 (June 2008, Bangkok) was informed that the initial trial phase of implementation of ICARD with the nominated States of Asia and Pacific Region had been successfully completed. Accordingly, all other States of the Region were invited by the Regional Office to register in the ICARD system and to start using it. When ready, States should contact the Regional Office directly and provide details of an authorized officer (ideally airspace planners) who will take responsibility for interactions with ICARD. The Regional Office would provide necessary assistance to authorized ICARD users to facilitate the widespread use of the system. In addition to Australia, Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand, now China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand have joined ICARD, thus eight States being the authorized user States.

3.4 Agreement between ICAO Headquarters and EUROCONTROL has been reached recently regarding the use of ICARD on a global basis, and the same coordination and support are provided to the Western and Central African (WACAF), Eastern and Southern African (ESAF), North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC), South American (SAM) Offices, as well as the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The ICARD website will be soon relocated to an ICAO headquarters' website. Necessary actions to be taken by the authorized States will be announced.

3.5 Unfortunately, the duplication issue of 5LNC is still being reported partly because a number of States are not yet using ICARD or using either the codes which are not in ICARD or have not reserved codes in ICARD. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to draw the attention of the meeting to Conclusion 18/11 and propose the following draft Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 20/XX – Allocation of Five-Letter Name-Codes in the Asia and Pacific Regions

That States which have not done yet be urged to:

- a) assign ICARD airspace planners in order to make use of the ICARD system and improve the process of allocation of 5LNCs;
- b) review the list of allocated 5LNCs, identify non-used, duplicate or non-ICAO 5LNCs and take actions to rectify the situations; and
- c) update the ICARD database by adding the missing information, e.g. latitude and longitude coordinates, etc.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The meeting is invited to;

- a) note the information provided on the ICARD system;
- b) consider the draft Conclusion in paragraph 3.5; and
- c) take the necessary action to implement the widespread use of the ICARD system by all States in the Asia and Pacific Region.

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