



International Civil Aviation Organization

**THE SEVENTH MEETING OF AERONAUTICAL
TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK (ATN)
TRANSITION TASK FORCE OF APANPIRG**

Shanghai, China, 18-22 April 2005.



Agenda Item 4: Review changes to AMHS documentation

A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERIM REGIONAL AMHS ADDRESS DATABASE

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This working paper proposes a centrally-administered AMHS database that can be used during the initial phase of AMHS implementation until a regional Director Service is established.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 States in the Asia/Pacific region are currently in the process of implementing AMHS services to replace AFTN services in accordance with the ATN transition plan of APANPIRG. As the number of AMHS User Agents (UA) and Message Transfer Agents (MTA) in the region grows, there is an urgent requirement for a regional database of AMHS addresses. AMHS address lookup is envisaged as one of the first applications for the ATN Directory Services, but implementation of Directory is lagging that of AMHS, and there is a pressing need to establish a regional AMHS address database as a stopgap measure.

1.2 A directory service will become essential when the number of User Agents and Message Transfer Agents in the Region becomes large enough to render a manually-administered table-based database impractical. Eventually, it is envisaged that a world-wide Directory Service will be implemented when regional Directory servers are linked.

1.3 This working paper proposes the creation of a regional AMHS address database to support AMHS operations until a regional Directory service is established.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 Regional AMHS Address Database

There is an urgent need for a regional AMHS address database that States will be able access easily to obtain information on MTA and UA addresses, points of contact etc.

Since the database will contain information submitted by all States in the region and must be made available to all States, it would be logical that such a database be administered by the ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

Other ICAO-administered tables and directories relating to regional facilities, such as the FASID, are updated on an annual basis and published in paper format. However, this would be unsuitable for an AMHS address database since the information on MTAs and UAs is likely to change much more quickly, at least during the transition from AMHS to AFTN, and there is a need for new information to be distributed to States as soon as it becomes valid in order to make most efficient use of the AMHS system.

2.2 **A Possible Implementation**

To meet these challenges, an electronic system of database publication, with manual administration, is proposed as a possible approach.

A database administered by ICAO Regional Office could be made available via a web portal, possibly in formats such as XML or even simple CSV as well as human-readable HTML to enable a degree of automated processing. The database content and format would have to be determined, and the necessary support infrastructure created and maintained.

Administration procedures would also need to be developed. For example, States wishing to register a new UA or MTA might be required to declare the information to the ICAO Regional Office at least, say, one month before the UA or MTA is due to enter service. A notification could be then distributed to designated network managers in each State by electronic mail, AFTN message, facsimile etc. When the new UA or MTA officially comes “on line”, ICAO Regional Office would be notified, the database updated, and an addition notification message sent to all States.

3. **ACTIONS BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to consider the urgent requirement for an interim AMHS address database, and to recommend it to APANPIRG.
