CIRCULAR 16-2014

RVSM FLIGHT LEVEL ALLOCATION SCHEME (FLAS) FL290 TO FL410 AND THE ALLOCATION OF FL420

The application of the RVSM FLAS in AFI is restricted to FL290 – FL410 inclusive for all eligible aircraft.

The application of RVSM is adequately documented in ICAO Document 9574, Manual on Vertical Separation Minimum between FL 290 and FL 410 Inclusive.

It has been observed, during the scrutiny of Air Traffic Flow Data, that FL420 is being allocated.

It should be recalled that the application of 1000FT vertical separation above FL290 is only applicable between FL290 and FL410 inclusive. The next available flight level above FL410 is FL430 and not FL420. 2000FT vertical separation is applicable above FL410 due to altimetry system inaccuracies.

In the event that two aircraft cross each other, one at FL410 and the other at FL420, a reduction in vertical separation is deemed to have occurred. This event will thus pose a risk to RVSM and en-route safety.

Air Navigation Service Providers and Aircraft Operators must ensure that FL420 is not allocated or utilised.

Further to this the allocation and use of FL420 should be immediately brought to the attention of ARMA for discussion with the relevant parties.

RVSM and en-route safety is of paramount importance.

END