



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Twenty-first Meeting of the Bay of Bengal ATS Coordination Group
(BBACG/21)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 07 – 10 March 2011

Agenda Item 5: Implementation of New CNS/ATM Systems in the Region

FLIGHT PLAN 2012 IMPLEMENTATION

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The encroaching important changes to the ICAO flight plan form and ATS message systems required by Doc 4444 Amendment 1, and as such are a matter of the highest priority. States are urged to provide up-to-date information on the status of their implementation of Amendment 1.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Amendment 1 to the 15th Edition of the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) introduces comprehensive changes to the ICAO Flight Plan and associated ATS Messages formats. One of the main reasons for this change is to allow the recognition, in a regulated manner, of PBN capabilities and requirements.

1.2 APANPIRG's Asia/Pacific ICAO Flight Plan and ATS Messages Task Force (FPL & AM/TF) has developed regional guidance material, which is on the Asia/Pacific (APAC) Office's web site. APAC States and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPPs) have been strongly encouraged to use this material as general implementation guidance for the NEW flight plan and ATS messages formats required by Amendment 1 to PANS-ATM for applicability date 15th November 2012.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Regional Office has issued a series of State letters to highlight the importance of Amendment 1 and development towards its implementation:

- a) on 8 January 2010, State Letter Ref: T3/10.0, T3/10.1.20 – AP003/10 (ATM), recognizing a pressing need to increase awareness amongst States about the complexities involved and encouraging them to commence work on implementation. APANPIRG/20 adopted the following Conclusion:

Conclusion 20/7 – Adopt Interim Strategy for Implementation of New Flight Plan Format

That the 'Interim Strategy for the Implementation of new ICAO Flight Plan Format and Supporting ATS Messages' provided in Appendix A to the APANPIRG/20 Report on Agenda Item 3.2 be adopted and published as the interim edition, and States and users be urged to commence implementation planning based on the interim strategy.

- b) on 28 July 2010, State Letter Ref: T3/10.1, T3/10.1.20 – AP119/10 (ATM), highlighting an additional conclusion as follows:

Conclusion 20/8 – Notification of State Transition Date to New Flight Plan Format

That, in order to align regional implementation planning, States inform the Regional Office by 1 July 2010 of their scheduled date and implementation methodology for transition to the new Flight Plan and ATS Message formats.

- c) on 24 September 2010, State Letter Ref: T3/10.0, T3/10.1.20 – AP147/10 (ATM), to highlight the Conclusion regarding the *Asia/Pacific Guidance Material for the Implementation of Amendment 1 to Procedures for Air Navigation Service – Air Traffic Management*:

Conclusion 21/4 – Regional Guidance Material for the Implementation of Amendment 1 to PANS-ATM

That, in order for States to clearly understand what is intended in Amendment 1, the ‘Asia/Pacific Guidance Material for the Implementation of Amendment 1 to the 15th Edition of the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444)’ provided in Appendix B to the APANPIRG/21 Report on Agenda Item 3.2 be adopted and published as regional guidance material.

- d) on 7 October 2010, State Letter Ref: T3/10.0, T3/10.1.20 – AP152/10 (ATM), to draw the attention of States to the following APANPIRG Conclusions:

Conclusion 21/5 – Strategy for Implementation of New Flight Plan Format

That, the ‘Strategy for the Implementation of new ICAO Flight Plan Format and Supporting ATS Messages’ provided in Appendix C to the APANPIRG/21 Report on Agenda Item 3.2 be adopted and published. States and users to be urged to continue implementation planning based on the strategy.

Conclusion 21/6 – Notification of State Transition Date to the NEW Flight Plan Format

That, in order to keep the ICAO Flight Plan Implementation Tracking System (FITS) website updated, States which have not yet provided data, inform the Regional Office of the initial set of data required in the FITS website, such as scheduled date and contact person, by 22 October 2010, and subsequently update the data as required.

- 2.2 In addition, APANPIRG/21 agreed the following Conclusions, which emphasised the need for urgent and appropriate coordination:

Conclusion 21/13 – Coordination for the Transition to the NEW Flight Plan Format among States

That, as the global and the regional harmonization is crucial in implementing the NEW flight plan format by 15 November 2012, States start close coordination soon with adjacent States/FIRs on transition about, but not limited to:

- i) *difference of timing for transition between the States/FIRs;*
- ii) *operations in the mixed environment of PRESENT and NEW;*
- iii) *operational transition for AIDC; and*
- iv) *procedures when ATS messages are not processed properly.*

Conclusion 21/13 – Enhancement of the Global Coordination for Implementation of the NEW Flight Plan Format

That, in light of the varying degree of States in implementing the NEW flight plan format, ICAO:

- i) *urge all the States, including those outside the Asia/Pacific Region, to record their readiness in the FITS;*
- ii) *take action to ensure that any States or ICAO regions not use non-standard local procedures; and*
- iii) *ensure appropriate coordination take place between ICAO regional planning and implementation groups (PIRGs) to address implementation issues.*

2.3 The ICAO Flight Plan Implementation Tracking System (FITS) was developed on the ICAO Headquarters website at <http://www2.icao.int/en/FITS/Pages/home.aspx> to help Air Navigation Service Providers and airspace users to monitor the global implementation status of the new ICAO flight plan.

2.4 To date, there are several APAC States that have not yet provided the Regional Office with data on their Amendment 1 implementation, despite this again being highlighted at the 47th Directors-General of Civil Aviation Conference (DGCA/47), held from 25 to 29 October 2010. The implementation of the NEW flight plan format will be a problem if it is not implemented in a uniform manner globally. It is therefore considered important for States to review urgently their status and readiness for implementation.

2.5 The FPL&AM/TF/4 and Seminar is scheduled to be conducted at Bangkok from 30 May until 03 June 2011.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this paper;
- b) review the current status of BBACG States on the FITS web site;
- c) for those States that have not provided up-to-date information on FITS, to provide an update on the progress of Amendment 1 implementation; and
- d) urge States to expedite the preparation for the implementation of the NEW format in accordance with the three phases contained in the regional implementation strategy

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