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ORGANISATION DE L'AVIATION
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Ref: ES AN 4/44 - 0634

17 August 2004

Subject: Implementation of Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM)

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to refer to your letter Ref. AM8/2/3/1 dated 24 June 2004. All States agreed, during APIRG/14 meeting held in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 23 to 27 June 2003, to do their utmost to implement RVSM on 20 January 2005. Furthermore, APIRG instructed the AFI RVSM Task Force (ARTF) to develop an AFI RVSM Strategy/Action Plan during AFI RVSM Task Force (ARTF) 2 Meeting held in Dakar in November 2003. This document was circulated to all States in December 2003 for comments. All comments received were incorporated and an updated version was sent to States after the target date of 31 March 2004.

A Go/No-Go Meeting is scheduled from 25 to 27 October 2004 for all AFI Stakeholders. The aim of the Go/No-GO Meeting is to analyze all data and work completed and to determine a feasible date to implement RVSM between FL290-FL410 within the AFI airspace. However, it is the responsibility of all States to notify their stakeholders of the intent to implement RVSM by a certain target date. Airlines/Operators must be given maximum time to prepare their aircraft for RVSM operations and an AIC informing stakeholders of the State intention should therefore, be published at the earliest possible time.

The implementation of RVSM in the AFI Region will be based on a safety assessment meeting ICAO requirements and demonstrating that RVSM Safety objectives have been satisfied. A safety assessment for the AFI Region has already commenced and a draft report will be discussed at the above-mentioned meeting.

As you are aware, each State is responsible for the safe implementation of RVSM in the airspace over which it has jurisdiction and will be responsible for providing assurance that their responsibilities have been met. The ICAO AFI Program Office developed the relevant documents, i.e., Strategy/Action plan and National RVSM Implementation Plan, to assist States in meeting the required target dates. I would like to draw your attention to letters Ref. ES AN 4/44 - 0217 dated 22 March 2004, ES AN 4/44 - 0422 dated 8 June 2004 and ES AN 4/44 - 0615 dated 10 August 2004 on the above subject.

The Director General: Transport
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Att : Andries Ntjane

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I would like to assure you that all relevant issues and potential problem areas will be deliberated by the ARTF and it is therefore, essential that your representative identifies items of concern and brings them to the attention of this Task Force for early consideration.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Lot Mollat
Regional Director