



NAT OPS BULLETIN

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Subject: New Service Notification for
Gander Oceanic Control Area

The purpose of this North Atlantic Operations Bulletin **2013_005** is to notify and inform operators of a new service being offered in the Gander Oceanic Control Area (OAC).

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NEW SERVICE NOTIFICATION FOR GANDER OCEANIC CONTROL AREA

What's New

Gander Oceanic Area Control Center (OACC) has instituted a procedure whereby flight crews transiting the Gander Oceanic Control Area (OCA) will be advised if higher flight levels become available for their flight.

How It's Done

Newly developed functionality in the Gander Automated Air Traffic System (GAATS+) will routinely interrogate a flight's vertical profile to determine if higher flight levels have become available. When this occurs the Gander Oceanic controller will verify the separation, complete all necessary coordination, and adhere to all safety related procedures before advising the flight that a climb is available, if requested.

Why It's Needed

NAT customers have indicated that the ability to conduct mid-ocean step climbs enable more fuel-efficient flight profiles. Recent analysis indicates that, although initiatives such as the Reduced Longitudinal Separation Minimum (RLongSM) of five minutes have been in place for over two years, many qualified flights are not availing of the airspace flexibility by means of making mid ocean requests. This may be attributable in part to previous experience on the flight deck that, due to traffic density, profile changes would not be available once a flight has entered oceanic airspace.

This new initiative will enable the Gander oceanic controller to be proactive by providing information that could aid in flight deck decision making that result in fuel savings and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

What Flight Crews Will See (via uplink message (UM) 169) or Hear (on HF via Gander Radio)

“(FLIGHT IDENT) HIGHER FLIGHT LEVEL IS AVAILABLE IF REQUESTED, ADVISE INTENTIONS”

What Flight Crews Should Do

If a climb would be beneficial to the flight, use CPDLC downlink message (DM) 9 “REQUEST CLIMB TO [level]” or request higher with Gander Radio via HF voice.

If a higher flight level is not requested, use CPDLC DM 3 “ROGER” or advise Gander Radio via HF voice.

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