



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG Air Traffic Management Sub-Group

Third Meeting (ATM SG/3)
(Cairo, Egypt, 22 – 25 May 2017)

Agenda Item 3: Global and Regional Developments related to ATM and SAR

ROUTE DESIGNATORS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information on appropriate procedures for allocation of ATS route designators and addresses the challenge related to the expected shortage of RNAV route designators for the meeting appropriate action.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- Annex 11

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ATS Route Designators are governed by the provisions of ICAO Annex 11-Appendix 1, which provides for the selection of the letters according to non-regional, regional, conventional or RNAV use as follows:

- a) A, B, G, R for routes that form part of the regional networks of ATS routes and are not area navigation routes;
- b) L, M, N, P for area navigation routes that form part of the regional networks of ATS routes;
- c) H, J, V, W for routes that do not form part of the regional networks of ATS routes and are not area navigation routes; and
- d) Q, T, Y, Z for area navigation routes that do not form part of the regional networks of ATS routes.

1.2 At present, the International Codes and Routes Designators (ICARD) system only allows the management of 5 Letters Name Codes (5LNCs). The ICAO MID Office uses a manual system for the management of the route designators allocated to the MID Region.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The MID Office is using a standard format of one letter and three numbers to equal four characters in total.

2.2 The current MID route allocation table sourced from a HQ instruction dated 3 December 1982 is reproduced in Table 1:

Part of the regional ATS Routes network (MID ANP):

Letter	Conventional				RNAV			
	A	B	G	R	L	M	N	P
Blocks	400-424	400-424	650-674	650-674	300-324	300-324	300-324	300-324
	775-799	525-549	775-799	775-799	550-574	550-574	550-574	550-574

Non-regional ATS Routes

Letter	Conventional				RNAV			
	H	J	V	W	Q	T	Y	Z
Blocks	615-624	615-624	600-624	600-624	?	?	?	?
	725-749	725-749	725-749	725-749				
	850-874	850-874	860-864	850-864				
	975-999	975-999	975-999	975-999				

2.3 The total route designators allocated for the MID Region are as follows:

Regional Conventional	200
Regional RNAV	200
Non-regional Conventional	320
Non-regional RNAV	?

2.4 The MID Office has been also managing the route designators for the ICAO Eastern and Southern African Region (ESAF). Currently, around 200 Regional RNAV route designators are only available for both Regions.

2.5 The meeting may wish to note that the subject has been addressed with the ICAO Headquarters for presentation to the ATMOPS Panel with the following recommendations:

- Considering the objective to accomplish 100% RNAV ATS route network worldwide, it is proposed to amend Annex 11 provisions related to route designators to allocate all the letters for RNAV use and in case of conventional route the insertion of a Letter (i.e. "C" or other letter) could be added for identification (i.e. R430C). This will make available sufficient RNAV designators and also avoid the overlapping of conventional and RNAV same route when transposing a route from conventional to RNAV.
- The use of the same route designators across the ICAO Regions should be implemented in a more effective and collaborative manner.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to explore means and ways for the efficient use of the route designators.