

ASSEMBLY — 35TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 23: Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and practices related to communications, navigation, and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems

CLEARANCE TO CLIMB SUBJECT TO MAINTAIN OWN SEPARATION WHILE IN VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS (VMC)

(Presented by Iran (Islamic Republic of))

SUMMARY

Clearances to fly maintaining own separation while in Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) in part 5 and subpart 5.9 of DOC 4444, ATM 501 14th edition 2001, including amendment 4, has been introduced to facilitate and expedite the flight operations by providing better choice(s) of level(s) and short cut route(s) to be flown for safety, efficiency and productivity, but the resections in regard to the level, airspace classification and seeking the agreement of other flight crew, not only does hinder such a facilitation and expedition, but they also make it rather impracticable.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 When so requested by an aircraft and provided that it is agreed by the pilot of the other aircraft and so authorized by the appropriate ATS authority, an ATC unit may clear a controlled flight, including a departing and an arriving flights, operating in airspace Classes D and E in visual meteorological conditions (VMC) during the hours of daylight to fly subject to maintaining own separation to one other aircraft and remaining in VMC. Furthermore, to enable the concerned crew to assess and locate the position of the controlled flights concerned, essential traffic information shall be given if they constitute essential traffic to each other.

- 1.2 When a controlled flight is so cleared, the following shall apply:
- a) The clearance shall be for a specified portion of the flight at or below 3 050m (10 000 ft), during climb or decent and subject to further restrictions as and when prescribed on the basis of regional agreements.
 - b) If there is a possibility that flight under VMC may become impracticable, an IFR flight shall be provided with alternative instructions to be complied with in the event that flight in visual meteorological conditions (VMC) for the terms of the clearance.
 - c) The pilot of an IFR flight, on observing that conditions are deteriorating and considering that operation in VMC will become impossible, shall inform ATC before entering instrument Meteorological conditions (IMC) and shall proceed in accordance with the alternative instructions given.

2. **DISCUSSION**

2.1 To facilitate and expedite operations of aircraft , it is necessary that the ICAO set the provisions, standards and recommended practices to enable the flight crew and ATC to materialize safety, efficiency , regularity and productivity by expediting the aircraft operation when all parties, in particular flight crew, are completely assured that the safety will not be jeopardized. However, the clearance to fly maintaining own separation while in VMC with the restrictions it entails is incomprehensive and impractical, although some states may do otherwise and the existing difference may be coordinated and appeared in the concerned publications.

3. **ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY**

3.1 It is requested that the assembly take action to have the Secretary General, Air Navigation Commission and Air Navigation Bureau to reconsider the issue in order to make it feasible as well as to generalize it to other categories of airspaces such as B and C.

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