



Agenda Item 6: Air Navigation Matters
6.3 Other Air Navigation matters

NEW ICAO FPL FORM

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY State Letter AN13/2.1-08/50, announced significant changes to the ICAO Flight Plan (FPL) form by amendment to PANS ATM, Doc 4444. These changes should bring a marked improvement in service and will require major system changes for both airspace users and ANSP's. As airspace users plan to meet the effective date of 15 November 2012, ANSP's must be ready to comply with the new FPL at a global level.	
References: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NACC/DCA/3 Meeting Report• State Letter AN13/2.1-08/50• Doc 4444, PANS-ATM	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	<i>This working paper is related to Strategic Objectives A and D.</i>

1. Introduction

1.1 ICAO State Letter AN13/2.1-08/50 was issued on 25 June 2008 amending the 15th edition of the PANS-ATM, Doc 4444. Although the format of the FPL form will remain relatively consistent with that presently being used, numerous changes will be required in the field descriptors used in the ICAO Flight Plan form.

1.2 Amendment 1 to the PANS-ATM (15th Edition) was issued to update the ICAO model flight plan form in order to meet the needs of aircraft with advanced capabilities and the evolving requirements of automated air traffic management (ATM) systems, while taking into account compatibility with existing systems, human factors, training, cost and transition aspects.

1.3 Considering that the transition from the present flight plan form and associated requirements to the new flight plan may present challenges for States and organizations involved in the processing of flight plans, ICAO has developed guidance material to smooth the implementation of the changes. The primary purpose of the guidance is to support a coordinated global effort during the transition period so that a successful and coordinated transition is achieved by the applicability date of 15 November 2012.

1.4 Civil Aviation Authorities are encouraged to follow the guidance provided by ICAO and to make necessary efforts to guarantee the continuity of operations during the transition period, considering that the flight plan information is essential to the ATM system.

1.5 ICAO will soon publish a website where the implementation status of the new provisions in all flight information regions (FIRs) will be contained and where issues related to the implementation will be posted and available for discussion among the subject matter experts and points of contact designated by the States.

1.6 One of the major concerns of airspace users is the possible post-implementation challenges after November 15, 2012, by those States and providers unable to implement by the deadline and the consequences to them.

2 Conclusion

2.1 In order to assure a seamless and timely transition with no loss of service, the North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation approved actions depicted in Conclusion 3/4 of the NACC/DCA/3 Meeting for transition from the present to the new FPL form.

2.2 States, Territories and International Organizations as a whole should guarantee the smooth transition from the present to the new FPL form and coordinate closely with the ICAO NACC Regional Office the necessary actions to implement, without exception the new FPL system by 15 November 2012.