



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP
SEVENTEENTH MEETING (APIRG/17)
(Burkina Faso, 2 to 6 August 2010)

Agenda Item - 3.3: Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)

PERFORMANCE-BASED NAVIGATION – THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGE

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

Performance-based navigation (PBN), as part of the *Global Air Navigation Plan* (Doc 9750) initiatives, supports increased accessibility and flexibility in terminal airspace thereby enhancing safety, efficiency and the environment. The 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly resolved that States and planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs) should complete a PBN implementation plan by 2009. This paper, while providing an update on developments related to the implementation of PBN, discusses implementation challenges due to resource and expertise shortages.

Action by APIRG/17 is contained in paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Performance-based navigation (PBN) provides the global framework of harmonized modern navigation requirements, which did not exist previously or existed on a regional basis only, and provides the platform to implement and benefit from existing and future area navigation technologies. It includes two key “building blocks”: area navigation (RNAV) and required navigation performance (RNP), the application of which encompasses all phases of flight from en-route to approach. PBN enhances safety by providing improved flight guidance to pilots. It enables operational improvements including shortened routes and continuous climb and descent operations, all of which reduce fuel consumption thereby reducing aviation’s environmental impact.

2. REPORT ON PBN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 The ICAO coordinated efforts for rolling out PBN contain three main elements which form an integral package: improving awareness and education; coordination and facilitation of implementation; and strengthening Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and guidance material. Statistics on the success rate of implementing PBN approaches, standard instrument departures (SID) and standard instrument arrivals (STAR) as well as the availability of national implementation plans are provided below.

2.2 Planning

2.2.1 All ICAO regional offices have been coordinating with States with a view to completing implementation plans through regional performance-based navigation/global navigation satellite system (PBN/GNSS) task forces. To assist in implementation efforts, educational tools have been offered in the form of airspace workshops, approach procedure with vertical guidance (APV) design courses and PBN implementation seminars. ICAO regional officers coordinated activities by providing progress reports and feedback to Headquarters to ensure globally harmonized PBN implementation through the planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs).

2.2.2 Much regulatory and guidance material has been updated to include PBN provisions. SARPs provide the necessary legal framework under the Convention and the referenced manuals provide support to States and stakeholders in the PBN implementation process.

2.2.3 All ICAO regions have approved, through the PIRG process, regional implementation plans for PBN. Based on these regional plans (www.icao.int/pbn), a growing number of States (126) have developed their national plans. All member States were expected to have completed these plans by the end of 2009 but due to resource and expertise shortages, the target date could not be met.

2.2.4 Eleven PBN seminars were conducted between 2007 and 2009 throughout the ICAO regions aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of PBN among all operational stakeholders. This was done in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States and EUROCONTROL.

2.2.5 A minimum of eight PBN airspace workshops are planned between 2010 and 2011, also in coordination with EUROCONTROL and the FAA. These workshops will provide insight and a basic understanding of introducing PBN into an airspace concept. The seminars will address the methodology to be used in developing such concepts and will allow for group work in the application of this methodology by providing unique hands-on experience.

2.2.6 As part of the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programmes (COSCAPs) activities, PBN operational approvals courses are planned for all regions in order to provide guidance to States on air operator airworthiness and operational approvals for all navigation specifications contained in the *Performance-based Navigation (PBN) Manual* (Doc 9613).

2.2.7 It was reported by at least one ICAO region that not all aircraft can be readily equipped for APV procedures but could fly the same track with lateral guidance only. Therefore, a lateral navigation (LNAV) option should be included in the development of the APV procedure.

2.3 Implementation

2.3.1 ICAO, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and representatives of States, industry and international organizations came together to establish the Global PBN Task Force (GPBNTF). The objectives are to build upon the global and regional structures already in place and to produce tools and enablers to facilitate and expedite PBN implementation. The first meeting resulted in an agreement on the need for such a global effort and divided the task force into teams working on specific areas as follows:

- a) *Promotion Team.* A global industry declaration to support PBN was signed on 1 April 2009. A quarterly newsletter (waypoints) was established. Various promotional flyers were produced;
- b) *Implementation Support Team.* The team established a detailed action plan template for States as a tool to plan PBN implementation; and
- c) *GO-Team.* PBN Global Task Force Go-Team visits are planned for every region to perform gap analyses and give practical advice on PBN and continuous descent operations (CDO) implementation to States. Four visits were scheduled for 2010.

2.3.2 In March 2010, the Asia-Pacific (APAC) Flight Procedure Programme (FPP) Office was opened in Beijing. This office targets accelerated implementation of PBN flight procedures by using expertise from the region to assist States in their implementation activities. The work programme concentrates on training, quality assurance and assistance of procedure design. This initiative was made feasible courtesy of China which is hosting the programme with direct financial contributions from States of the region. Building on the experience gained in the APAC Region, a similar initiative is being considered in the African Region.

2.3.3 *Actual implementation of approaches, standard instrument departure (SIDs) and standard instrument arrivals (STARs).* Pursuant to resolution A36-23, ICAO started a mechanism for measuring actual PBN implementation worldwide. The global number of PBN approaches implemented between January 2008 and January 2010 totalled 2 534 (a 38% increase). The number of PBN SIDs and STARs implemented during the same period totalled 1 617 (a 41% increase). It should be noted that these figures reflect an average implementation rate and that there is a marked disparity in individual implementation rates. The delay in implementation by some States can be attributed to the complexity of PBN and the time required for States to gain proper understanding of the implementation issues.

3. ACTION BY APIRG/17

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the developments in the implementation of PBN;
- b) urge States to provide annual updates on implementation issues and progress made; and
- c) request States to complete the development of national implementation plans and ensure compliance with the dates indicated in the plans.

— END —