

CHAPTER 6. AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION UPDATES

6.1 General specifications

Aeronautical data and aeronautical information shall be kept up to date.

6.2 Aeronautical information regulation and control (AIRAC)

6.2.1 Information concerning the following circumstances shall be distributed under the regulated system (AIRAC), i.e. basing establishment, withdrawal or significant changes upon a series of common effective dates at intervals of 28 days, including 8 November 2018:

- a) limits (horizontal and vertical), regulations and procedures applicable to:
 - 1) flight information regions;
 - 2) control areas;
 - 3) control zones;
 - 4) advisory areas;
 - 5) air traffic services (ATS) routes;
 - 6) permanent danger, prohibited and restricted areas (including type and periods of activity when known) and air defence identification zones (ADIZ);
 - 7) permanent areas or routes or portions thereof where the possibility of interception exists;
- b) positions, frequencies, call signs, identifiers, known irregularities and maintenance periods of radio navigation aids, and communication and surveillance facilities;
- c) holding and approach procedures, arrival and departure procedures, noise abatement procedures and any other pertinent ATS procedures;
- d) transition levels, transition altitudes and minimum sector altitudes;
- e) meteorological facilities (including broadcasts) and procedures;
- f) runways and stopways;
- g) taxiways and aprons;
- h) aerodrome ground operating procedures (including low visibility procedures);

- i) approach and runway lighting; and
- j) aerodrome operating minima if published by a State.

6.2.2 The information notified under the AIRAC system shall not be changed further for at least another 28 days after the effective date, unless the circumstance notified is of a temporary nature and would not persist for the full period.

6.2.3 Information provided under the AIRAC system shall be made available by the aeronautical information service (AIS) so as to reach recipients at least 28 days in advance of the effective date.

Note.— AIRAC information is distributed by the AIS unit at least 42 days in advance of the AIRAC effective dates with the objective of reaching recipients at least 28 days in advance of the effective date.

6.2.4 When information has not been submitted by the AIRAC date, a NIL notification shall be distributed not later than one cycle before the AIRAC effective date concerned.

6.2.5 Implementation dates other than AIRAC effective dates shall not be used for pre-planned operationally significant changes requiring cartographic work and/or for updating of navigation databases.

6.2.6 **Recommendation.**— *The regulated system (AIRAC) should be used for the provision of information relating to the establishment and withdrawal of, and premeditated significant changes in, the circumstances listed below:*

- a) *position, height and lighting of navigational obstacles;*
- b) *hours of service of aerodromes, facilities and services;*
- c) *customs, immigration and health services;*
- d) *temporary danger, prohibited and restricted areas and navigational hazards, military exercises and mass movements of aircraft; and*
- e) *temporary areas or routes or portions thereof where the possibility of interception exists.*

6.2.7 **Recommendation.**— *Whenever major changes are planned and where advance notice is desirable and practicable, information should be made available by the AIS so as to reach recipients at least 56 days in advance of the effective date. This should be applied to the establishment of, and premeditated major changes in, the circumstances listed below, and other major changes if deemed necessary:*

- a) *new aerodromes for international instrument flight rules (IFR) operations;*
- b) *new runways for IFR operations at international aerodromes;*
- c) *design and structure of the ATS route network;*
- d) *design and structure of a set of terminal procedures (including change of procedure bearings due to magnetic variation change);*
- e) *circumstances listed in 6.2.1 if the entire State or any significant portion thereof is affected or if cross-border coordination is required.*

Note.— Guidance material on what constitutes a major change is included in the Aeronautical Information Services Manual (Doc 8126).

6.3 Aeronautical information product updates

6.3.1 AIP updates

6.3.1.1 The aeronautical information publication (AIP) shall be amended or reissued at such regular intervals as may be necessary to keep it up to date.

6.3.1.2 Permanent changes to the AIP shall be published as AIP Amendments.

6.3.1.3 Temporary changes of long duration (three months or longer) and information of short duration which contains extensive text and/or graphics shall be published as AIP Supplements.

6.3.2 NOTAM

6.3.2.1 When an AIP Amendment or an AIP Supplement is published in accordance with AIRAC procedures, a Trigger NOTAM shall be originated.

Note.— Detailed specifications concerning the Trigger NOTAM are contained in the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Aeronautical Information Management (PANS-AIM, Doc 10066).

6.3.2.2 A NOTAM shall be originated and issued promptly whenever the information to be distributed is of a temporary nature and of short duration, or when operationally significant permanent changes or temporary changes of long duration are made at short notice, except for extensive text and/or graphics.

6.3.2.3 A NOTAM shall be originated and issued concerning the following information:

- a) establishment, closure or significant changes in operation of aerodrome(s) or heliport(s) or runways;
- b) establishment, withdrawal or significant changes in operation of aeronautical services (aerodromes, AIS, ATS, communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS), meteorology (MET), search and rescue (SAR), etc.);
- c) establishment, withdrawal or significant changes in operational capability of radio navigation and air-ground communication services. This includes: interruption or return to operation, change of frequencies, change in notified hours of service, change of identification, change of orientation (directional aids), change of location, power increase or decrease amounting to 50 per cent or more, change in broadcast schedules or contents, or irregularity or unreliability of operation of any radio navigation and air-ground communication services or limitations of relay stations including operational impact, affected service, frequency and area;
- d) unavailability of back-up and secondary systems, having a direct operational impact;
- e) establishment, withdrawal or significant changes to visual aids;
- f) interruption of or return to operation of major components of aerodrome lighting systems;
- g) establishment, withdrawal or significant changes to procedures for air navigation services;
- h) occurrence or correction of major defects or impediments in the manoeuvring area;
- i) changes to and limitations on availability of fuel, oil and oxygen;

- j) major changes to search and rescue facilities and services available;
- k) establishment, withdrawal or return to operation of hazard beacons marking obstacles to air navigation;
- l) changes in regulations requiring immediate action, e.g. prohibited areas for SAR action;
- m) presence of hazards not otherwise promulgated, which affect air navigation (including obstacles, military exercises and operations, intentional and unintentional radio frequency interferences, rocket launches, displays, fireworks, sky lanterns, rocket debris, races and major parachuting events);
- n) conflict zones which affect air navigation (to include information that is as specific as possible regarding the nature and extent of threats of that conflict and its consequences for civil aviation);

Note.— Guidance related to conflict zones is contained in the Risk Assessment Manual for Civil Aircraft Operations Over or Near Conflict Zones (Doc 10084).

- o) planned laser emissions, laser displays and search lights if pilots' night vision is likely to be impaired;
- p) erecting or removal of, or changes to, obstacles to air navigation in the take-off/climb, missed approach, approach areas and runway strip;
- q) establishment or discontinuance (including activation or deactivation) as applicable, or changes in the status of prohibited, restricted or danger areas;
- r) establishment or discontinuance of areas or routes or portions thereof where the possibility of interception exists and where the maintenance of guard on the VHF emergency frequency 121.5 MHz is required;
- s) allocation, cancellation or change of location indicators;
- t) changes in aerodrome/heliport rescue and firefighting category provided (see Annex 14, Volume I, Chapter 9, and Attachment A, Section 17);
- u) presence or removal of, or significant changes in, hazardous conditions due to snow, slush, ice, radioactive material, toxic chemicals, volcanic ash deposition or water on the movement area;
- v) outbreaks of epidemics necessitating changes in notified requirements for inoculations and quarantine measures;
- w) observations or forecasts of space weather phenomena, the date and time of their occurrence, the flight levels where provided and portions of the airspace which may be affected by the phenomena;
- x) an operationally significant change in volcanic activity, the location, date and time of volcanic eruptions and/or horizontal and vertical extent of volcanic ash cloud, including direction of movement, flight levels and routes or portions of routes which could be affected;
- y) release into the atmosphere of radioactive materials or toxic chemicals following a nuclear or chemical incident, the location, date and time of the incident, the flight levels and routes or portions thereof which could be affected and the direction of movement;
- z) establishment of operations of humanitarian relief missions, such as those undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations, together with procedures and/or limitations which affect air navigation; and

- aa) implementation of short-term contingency measures in cases of disruption, or partial disruption, of ATS and related supporting services.

Note.— See Annex 11, 2.31 and Attachment C to that Annex.

Note.— Specifications concerning the timely promulgation of information by NOTAM are contained in Chapter 6 of the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Aeronautical Information Management (PANS-AIM, Doc 10066).

6.3.2.4 The following information shall not be notified by NOTAM:

- a) routine maintenance work on aprons and taxiways which does not affect the safe movement of aircraft;
- b) runway marking work, when aircraft operations can safely be conducted on other available runways, or the equipment used can be removed when necessary;
- c) temporary obstructions in the vicinity of aerodromes/heliports that do not affect the safe operation of aircraft;
- d) partial failure of aerodrome/heliport lighting facilities where such failure does not directly affect aircraft operations;
- e) partial temporary failure of air-ground communications when suitable alternative frequencies are known to be available and are operative;
- f) the lack of apron marshalling services and road traffic control;
- g) the unserviceability of location, destination or other instruction signs on the aerodrome movement area;
- h) parachuting when in uncontrolled airspace under VFR (see 6.3.2.3 m)), when controlled, at promulgated sites or within danger or prohibited areas;
- i) training activities by ground units;
- j) unavailability of back-up and secondary systems if these do not have an operational impact;
- k) limitations to airport facilities or general services with no operational impact;
- l) national regulations not affecting general aviation;
- m) announcement or warnings about possible/potential limitations, without any operational impact;
- n) general reminders on already published information;
- o) availability of equipment for ground units without containing information on the operational impact for airspace and facility users;
- p) information about laser emissions without any operational impact and fireworks below minimum flying heights;
- q) closure of movement area parts in connection with planned work locally coordinated of duration of less than one hour;
- r) closure or unavailability of, or changes in, operation of aerodrome(s)/heliport(s) outside the aerodrome(s)/heliport(s) operational hours; and

- s) other non-operational information of a similar temporary nature.

Note.— Information which relates to an aerodrome and its vicinity and does not affect its operational status may be distributed locally during pre-flight or in-flight briefing or other local contact with flight crews.

6.3.3 Data set updates

6.3.3.1 Data sets shall be amended or reissued at such regular intervals as may be necessary to keep them up to date.

6.3.3.2 Permanent changes and temporary changes of long duration (three months or longer) made available as digital data shall be issued in the form of a complete data set or a subset that includes only the differences from the previously issued complete data set.

6.3.3.3 **Recommendation.**— *When made available as a completely reissued data set, the differences from the previously issued complete data set should be indicated.*

6.3.3.4 **Recommendation.**— *When temporary changes of short duration are made available as digital data (digital NOTAM), they should use the same aeronautical information model as the complete data set.*

6.3.3.5 Updates to AIP and digital data sets shall be synchronized.

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