



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Seventeenth Meeting of the ICAO Aeronautical Information Services – Aeronautical Information Management Implementation Task Force (AAITF/17)

Video Teleconference, 20 – 24 June 2022

Agenda Item 6: Regional AIM Guidance and Planning

REVIEW OF THE TERM “AUTHORIZED USERS”

(Presented by Singapore)

SUMMARY

This paper seeks a review of the term ‘authorized users’ contained in ICAO Annex 15 – Aeronautical Information Services, and to propose the use of the term ‘next intended users’ for consistency in the provision of AIS.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ICAO Annex 15 – Aeronautical Information Services outlines the International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) adopted by the Council pursuant to the provisions of Article 37 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago 1944). SARPs outlined govern the application of the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Aeronautical Information Management (*PANS-AIM, Doc 10066*) which contracting states are obligated to comply for the provision of Aeronautical Information Services (AIS).

1.2 One of the key AIS responsibilities is to ensure that aeronautical data and aeronautical information necessary for the safety, regularity and efficiency of air navigation are made available in a form suitable for the requirements of the air traffic management (ATM) community. To achieve this States are to expeditiously distribute aeronautical data and aeronautical information in the form of Aeronautical Information Products (e.g., Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP), AIP Amendments, AIP Supplements and Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) as per Annex 15 para 5.4.1.2.

1.3 However, Annex 15 para 5.4.1.1 used the term “authorized users” for the entity that receives Aeronautical Information Products that States need to distribute to. Annex 15 does not provide elaboration on this matter or the considerations for defining users that are authorized and not authorized to receive. In contrast, the term “next intended user” has been used in various parts of Annex 15 and PANS-AIM, which has been clearly defined on both documents as the entity that receives the aeronautical data or information.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The term “authorized users” in Annex 15 para 5.4.1.1 might be misperceived as a form of ‘authorization’, i.e., that States providing AIS need to have a verification, validation and authentication process be put in place to ensure that users are legitimate recipients of the aeronautical data and aeronautical information. On the other hand, the term “next intended user” used in both Annex 15 and PANS-AIM Doc 10066, particularly in para 5.4.1.1 of PANS-AIM, where “Distribution Services” is elaborated for the various aeronautical information products, does prescribe the need for States to restrict distribution of aeronautical data and information products only to authorized users.

2.2 The term “authorized users” is not defined in Annex 15 and only used once in para 5.4.1.1. On the other hand, the term “next intended user” is listed in several clauses as follow:

- Para 3.2.3.1 – “The integrity of aeronautical data shall be maintained throughout the data chain from origination to distribution to the next intended user.”
- *Para 3.6.2 Recommendation – “Quality management should be applicable to the whole aeronautical data chain from data origination to distribution to the next intended user...”*
- Para 4.2.2 – “Metadata collection shall be applied throughout the aeronautical information data chain, from origination to distribution to the next intended user.”
- Para 5.3.1.2 – “Each data set shall be provided to the next intended user together with at least the minimum set of metadata that ensures traceability.”

2.3 A direct interpretation of the term “authorized users” might suggest that the aeronautical data and aeronautical information serves only Pilots, Airline Operators, Air Navigation Services Providers, and Data-houses who have subscribed to the State’s Aeronautical Information Product publication. Hence, authorized users are required to have a registered log-in ID and password to access the aeronautical information products. This would be the typical arrangement where users must pay subscription fees to the States for aeronautical information publication cost recovery. While on the other hand, we observe that, majority of States do not impose any fees nor require users to log-in or sign-up to access aeronautical data and aeronautical information.

2.4 The term “authorized users” in Annex 15 para 5.4.1.1 may unnecessarily impose a requirement for States to verify and validate “authorized users”. Some States may not have the resources to put in place such process to restrict access the aeronautical data and information. Additionally, having restricted access to the aeronautical data and information may defeat the purpose of achieving global interoperability, digital distribution, and digital exchange of aeronautical data and information among States seamlessly.

2.5 In view of the above, Singapore proposes to replace the term “authorized users” in Annex 15 para 5.4.1.1 to “next intended user”. This proposed amendment does not limit or prevent States from retaining or establishing processes to restrict access to their aeronautical data and information by means of verification, validation, and authentication of authorized users. States may do so for various reasons including cost recovery.

2.6 To facilitate the discussion, a draft amendment to Annex 15 para 5.4.1.1. is presented for the meeting’s consideration as follows: “Aeronautical Information Products shall be distributed to ~~authorized users~~ the next intended user who request them” to be consistent with PANS-AIM para 5.4.1.1 and other clauses within Annex 15.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss the appropriateness of the term ‘authorized users’;
- c) discuss the proposed amendment in para 2.6 of this paper to align the language across both documents to prevent any ambiguities; and
- d) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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