



International Civil Aviation Organization  
**ICAO** Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Regional Airspace Safety  
Monitoring Advisory Group (RASMAG/28)

Bangkok, Thailand, 21 – 24 August 2023

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**Agenda Item 5: Airspace Safety Monitoring Activities/Requirements in the Asia/Pacific Region**

**RVSM APPROVALS AND FILLING OF RVSM INDICATOR BY STATE AIRCRAFT**

(Presented by ICAO)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents brief summary of actions taken in response to detection and handling of State aircraft operators that incorrectly file RVSM indicator 'W' in their flight plan.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This paper refers to RASMAG task list Action item 25/2: *The meeting suggested that the question be raised to the ATM/SG/8 on how to detect/handle State aircraft operators that incorrectly file 'W' in their flight plans (RASMAG/25<sup>1</sup>/WP04), and subsequent outcomes from RASMAG/26 (Video Teleconference, 20 to 23 September 2021). RASMAG/26 formed the following Draft Conclusion, which was presented to the Ninth Meeting of the Air Traffic Management Sub-Group of APANPIRG (ATM/SG/9, Video Teleconference, 01 to 05 November 2021) for endorsement:*

***Draft Conclusion RASMAG/26-3: RVSM Approvals Data and Filing of RVSM Indicator in Flight Plans of State Aircraft***

*That, States are urged to:*

1. *liaise with their State aircraft operators to:*
  - a. *share State aircraft RVSM approval data with the designated RMA where State aircraft RVSM approval processes are implemented;*
  - b. *confirm the RVSM approval status of State aircraft when queried by the RMA; and*
  - c. *not file 'W' in item 10 of the ICAO flight plan of aircraft that are not approved for RVSM; and*
2. *respond to a survey on RMA and State responsibility on the matter of RVSM approvals of State aircraft.*

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<sup>1</sup> RASMAG/25, Video Teleconference, 27 – 30 October 2020

1.2 While noting the need for RVSM approval for all aircraft that included the RVSM indicator in flight plans, for the safety of operations in the airspace, the meeting considered that there would be considerable difficulty in sharing data on State aircraft outside the State. Items 1a. and 1b. of the Draft Conclusion were not supported by ATM/SG/9, but the remainder was acceptable. APANPIRG/32 (01 to 03 December 2021) subsequently agreed to **Conclusion APANPIRG/32-6: RVSM Approvals Data and Filing of RVSM indicator in Flight Plans of State Aircraft**, without the items noted.

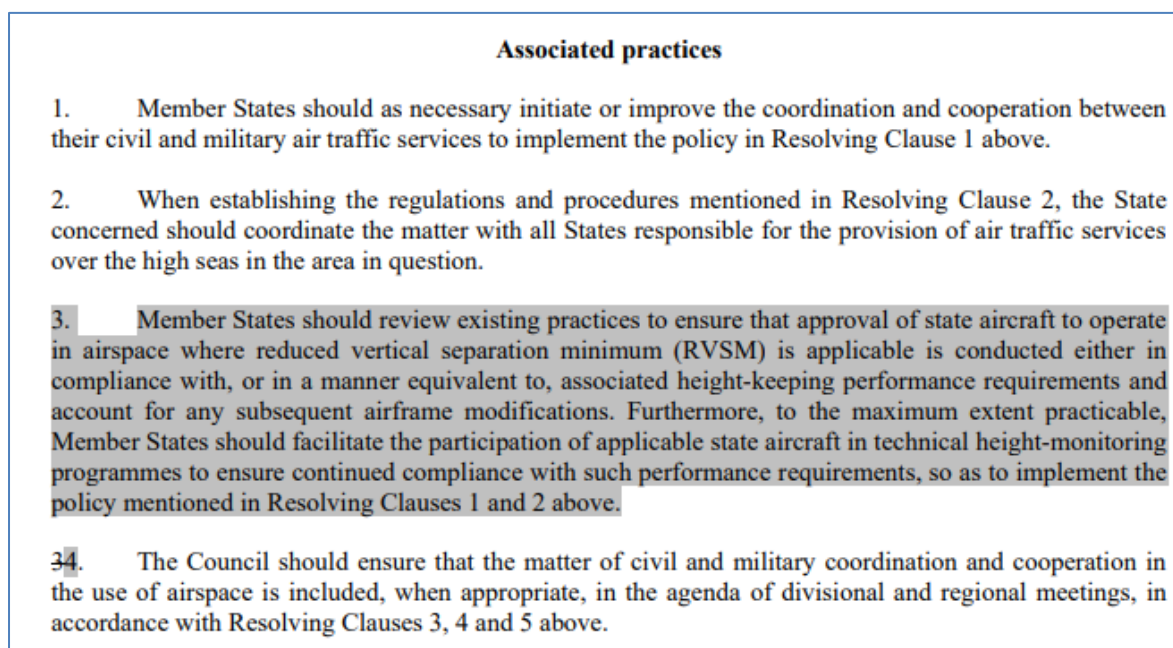
## 2. DISCUSSION

### Follow-up Actions

2.1 After APANPRIG/32, Fifteen States/Administrations responded to the survey supported by Conclusion APANPIRG/32-6. The majority of responses indicated that States:

- 1) *had coordination processes in place to support discussions of RVSM and other airspace-safety-related issues with State aircraft operators;*
- 2) *had rules or procedures in place to ensure that State aircraft operators did not file the RVSM-approved 'W' indicator in filed flight plans for non-RVSM-approved aircraft; and*
- 3) *would you like Asia Pacific RMAs to continue to cross-check 'W' in State Aircraft's flight plans against RMAs' RVSM database and try to resolve the discrepancies.*

2.2 Responding to a working paper submitted by Czechia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, the other Member States of the European Civil Aviation Conference, and EUROCONTROL, the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly (Assembly/41, Montreal, Canada, 27 September to 07 October 2022) included in Appendix I to Resolution A41-10 (Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and associated practices related specifically to air navigation) an associated practice relating to the approval of state aircraft to operate in RVSM airspace (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1:** Extract from A41-WP/626 assembly — 41st session technical commission draft text for the report on agenda item 33

Conclusion

2.3 It appears items #1a & 1b in the Draft Conclusion RASMAG/26-3 may be difficult for some APAC states (indicated in the survey) that do not have the necessary capability to engage with state aircraft operators. Therefore, the work of checking State aircraft RVSM approvals would appear to remain with the RMAs)

2.4 Information present during RASMAG/27 highlighted that Germany had requested that EUROCONTROL Network Managers flight plan planning system (IFPS) reject flight plans for aircraft that have not been reported as approved for RVSM, from operating in RVSM designated airspace over Germany and seven more EU States (Austria, Denmark, France, Greece, Morocco, Moldova, and Spain) aim to join this scheme in 2024. As the rejection of such flight plans of non-RVSM aircraft start to gain more traction in European region, this may prompt States of non-EU origin to take more actions.

2.5 That being said, APAC state aircraft operating solely within APAC region may be still pose an issue. Therefore the task item RASMAG25/2 should remain open and monitored.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
  - b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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