



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

The Second Meeting of the South Asia, Indian Ocean, and Southeast Asia ATM Coordination Group (SAIOSEACG/2)

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 – 24 March 2023

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW RUNWAY AND CHANGES TO THE AIRSPACE

(Presented by MALDIVES)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information on the opening of a new runway at Velana International Airport (VIA) and changes to the airspace concurrently with the new runway operation

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A new runway at VIA was inaugurated on 6th October 2022. The terminal airspace was reorganized, and new SIDs and STARs were implemented as well.

2. DISCUSSION

The new Runway

2.1 The new runway is part of a major project initiated by the government to develop VIA and its services, with its position as the key gateway of the Maldives. The new runway is designed taking into consideration current and future traffic growth. The previous runway now serves as a parallel taxiway.

2.2 The runway has a dimension of 3400m x 60m and conforms to ICAO Code 4 F. Both runway ends are served with Cat 1 ILS. RNP approach procedures are also published for both runway ends.

2.3 The new runway has several operational advantages. The most significant is the improved runway throughput, from 8 aircraft to 21 aircraft per hour, reducing airborne and ground delays.

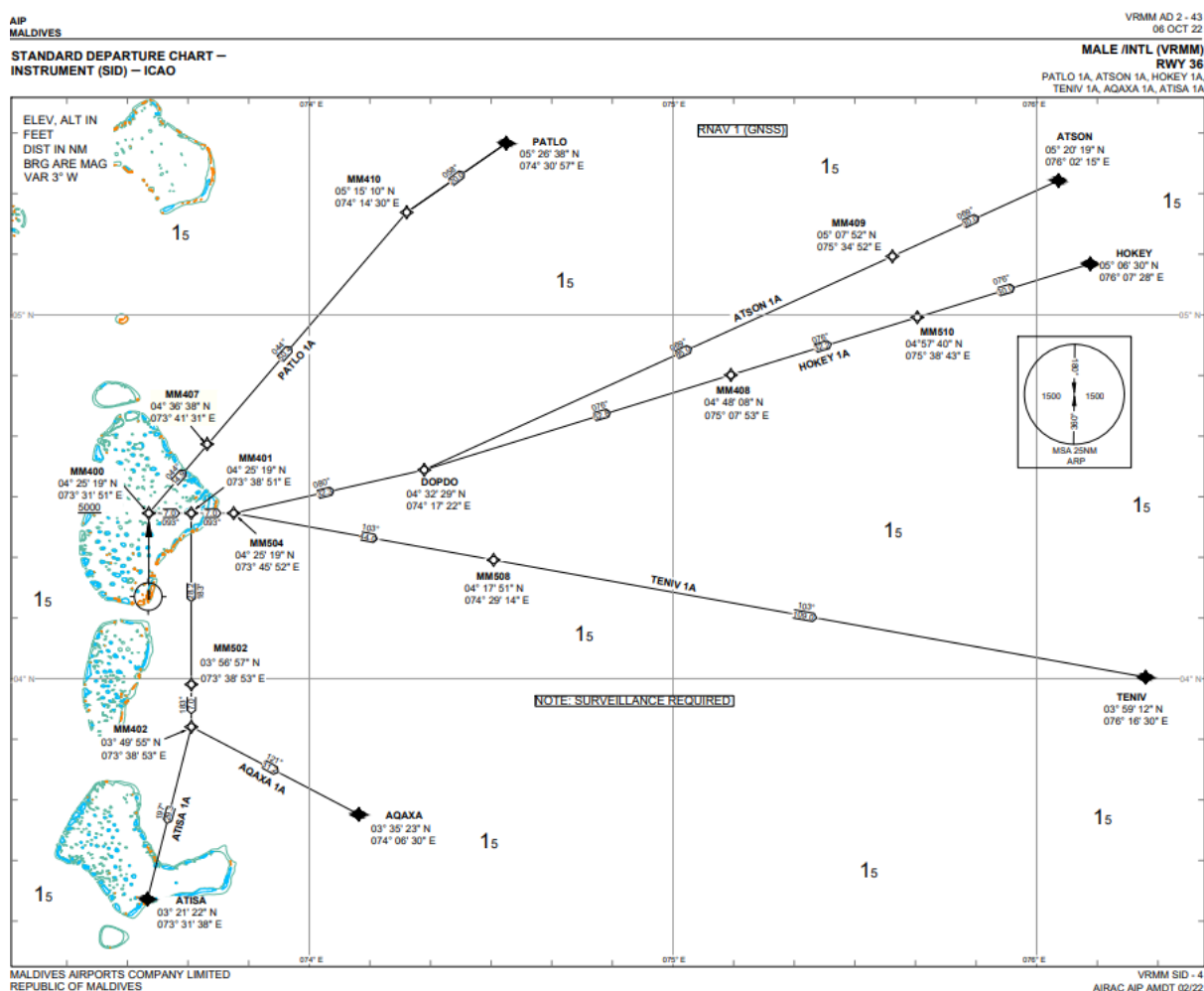


Previously a longitudinal spacing of 26 NM was applied if the preceding aircraft is a widebody. Now the longitude is 7NM between successive arrivals.

The new SIDs and STARS

2.4 Based on RNAV 1 application and GNSS sensor, the STARS and SIDs are extended as far as 160NM from the airport, to reduce conflict between arriving and departing aircraft.

2.5 The STARS are designed as arrival procedures with a “closed path,” to facilitate Continuous Descend Operation (CDO), and provided predictability for both pilot and controller.



Training

2.6 A major change management was undertaken, involving airport operation ATC.

2.7 ATCOs were given classroom and simulator training to prepare them for the new runway operation and associated changes to the airspace.

2. 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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