



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

**EIGHTH MEETING OF SPECTRUM REVIEW WORKING
GROUP (SRWG/8)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 05 – 07 March 2024

Agenda Item 3: Review Frequency planning requirements for the Asia/Pacific Region

3.1 VHF COM Frequency Allotment Plan for APAC

**SURVEY RESULT OF THE NECESSITY TO IMPLEMENT 128.950 MHZ FOR TRAFFIC
INFORMATION BROADCASTS BY AIRCRAFT (TIBA) IN THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION**

(Presented by China and the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the results of the questionnaire on the necessity to implement 128.950 MHz for traffic information broadcasts by aircraft (TIBA) in the APAC region.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Second Asia/Pacific Regional Air Navigation Meeting held on 11 - 28 January 1983 in Singapore, agreed to include in the VHF FREQUENCY UTILIZATION PLAN an air-to-air function operating at 128.950MHz.

Conclusion 4.2/10 – VHF CHANNEL FOR AIR-TO-AIR COMMUNICATIONS

That states study the feasibility of clearing the channel 128.95 MHz for exclusive use as an air-to-air communications channel as defined in Annex 10, Volume I, part II, 4.1.3.2.

1.2 The Thirteenth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/13) held on 9-13 September 2002, agreed to formulate the following Conclusion:

**Conclusion 13/7 - Adoption of a regionally protected frequency for Traffic Information
Broadcasts by Aircraft (TIBA)**

That,

- a) A designated VHF radio telephony (RTF) frequency of 128.95 MHz be promulgated in the Regional Supplementary Procedures (Doc 7030) for the Asia/Pacific Region for the use of Traffic Information Broadcasts by Aircraft to permit reports and relevant supplementary information of an advisory nature to be transmitted by pilots; and,
- b) All States in the Asia/Pacific Region to include the frequency of 128.95 for the use of TIBA in their contingency plans.

1.3 SRWG/7 invited the Meeting to review the various efforts on improving the utilization of frequency band 117.975 - 137 MHz, and raised the need to review the necessity to implement 128.95MHz for TIBA. SRWG/7 agreed to form an ad-hoc expert group, which aim to review the VHF COM Frequency Allotment Plan for APAC in terms of effective use of frequencies in the region.

1.4 The ad-hoc expert group worked with the ICAO Secretariat and published a questionnaire to the APAC States and Administrations through the ICAO APAC State Letter Ref.: T 8/8.6 – AP066/23(CNS) provided in **Appendix A**.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The ICAO APAC Regional Office have received **eighteen (18)** responses from States/Administrations, including Australia, China, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Macau China, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam. The summary of replies is provided below for meetings review.

State/Administration's allotment of 128.950MHz for TIBA

2.2 Among the 18 responses, four (4) of them replied 128.950MHz has been allotted for TIBA, one (1) of these four stated TIBA has never been activated, and the other fourteen (14) of them responded that 128.950MHz has not been allotted for TIBA.

State/Administration's allotment of 128.950MHz for other services

2.3 Among the fourteen (14) States/Administrations that have not allotted 128.950MHz to TIBA, three (3) States/Administrations have allotted 128.950MHz to Aeronautical operational control (AOC), and one (1) State/Administration has allotted 128.950MHz to Aerodrome Service (AS).

State/Administration's allotment of other frequencies for TIBA

2.4 Among the 18 responses, other three (3) frequencies are allotted to TIBA for part or whole flight level. They are 121.5MHz, 121.900MHz, and 123.450MHz.

Issues arising from cancelling 128.950 MHz for TIBA and re-allot this frequency to other services

2.5 Some State/Administrations take the view that TIBA is a critical part of the contingency procedures, it would have a significant impact for flights already if a TIBA frequency is not available and could negatively impact flight safety. Regulation amendment, necessary industry consultation and education will have to be developed if APAC re-allots 128.950MHz to other services.

2.6 It is emphasized that if a decision is made to revise the use of 128.95 MHz for TIBA, APAC need to adopt a new clear frequency channel or revise the APAC Contingency plan in accordance with agreed changes, which need to consider and evaluate the possibility of affecting the adjacent frequencies being used.

Other Points to Note

2.7 This questionnaire serves the purpose of understanding States'/Administrations' implement 128.950 MHz for TIBA. States/Administrations should follow their own preceding experience and determine accordingly their own needs to implement, and coordinate with their airspace users. There is no requirement envisaged for the APAC Region for a collective action to re-allot 128.950 MHz to other services.

Summary

2.8 Based on the survey results, the suggestions are as follows,

- a) Reserve 128.950 MHz for TIBA in the APAC region, although States/administrations may also re-allot this frequency to other services according to their own needs. However, any assignment for 128.950 MHz to other services should not impact the airspace which have allotted or plan to use 128.950 MHz for TIBA.
- b) Insert an article in 3.2.3 about TIBA in Chapter 3 of the Frequency Guidance Material (Management Manual), and list the States/Administrations which have allotted or plan to allot 128.950 MHz to TIBA in Appendix C.

2.9 In addition, States/Administrations who have not yet replied to the Survey are encouraged to do so by replying to the State Letter with Survey in **Appendix A**.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) encourage States/Administrations to reply to the Survey provided in ICAO APAC State Letter Ref.: T 8/8.6 – AP066/23(CNS) at **Appendix A**; and
- c) discuss any relevant matter as appropriate.



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国际民用
航空组织

Ref.: T 8/8.6 – AP066/23(CNS)

3 May 2023

Subject: Survey Questionnaire: The Necessity to Implement
128.950MHz for Traffic Information Broadcasts by
Aircraft (TIBA)

Action Required: Reply by **3 July 2023**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/13) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 09 to 13 September 2002 at ICAO Asia and Pacific Office, which agreed to formulate the following Conclusion:

Conclusion 13/7 – Adoption of a regionally protected frequency for Traffic Information Broadcasts by Aircraft (TIBA)

That,

- a) A designated VHF radio telephony (RTF) frequency of 128.95 MHz be promulgated in the Regional Supplementary Procedures (Doc 7030) for the Asia/Pacific Region for the use of Traffic Information Broadcasts by Aircraft to permit reports and relevant supplementary information of an advisory nature to be transmitted by pilots; and,
- b) All States in the Asia/Pacific Region to include the frequency of 128.95 for the use of TIBA in their contingency plans.

With the development of civil aviation industry and the substantial increase in the number of aeronautical radio stations, the current frequency allotment plan needs to be revisited to satisfy the actual demand in the APAC Region. The need for continued use of the frequency 128.950MHz for TIBA purpose may have been replaced by the use of air-to-air VHF communications channel on the frequency of 123.450 MHz on a global basis, refer to 4.1.3.2 in Annex 10, Volume V. In this case, the frequency 128.950MHz may become available in the APAC Region for air-ground communications.

The Spectrum Review Working Group (SRWG) of APANPIRG proposed a Questionnaire

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provided as **Attachment A** to this letter in its seventh working group meeting (SRWG/7) to assist an expert group to review the VHF COM Frequency Allotment Plan for APAC in terms of effective use of frequencies in the region. The intent of the Questionnaire is primarily to investigate the implementation of **APANPIRG Conclusion 13/7** in your Administration. The response to the questionnaire from States will support to complete the ongoing studies by the expert group.

The electronic version in Microsoft Word format of the Questionnaire can also be accessed at: <https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2023-WRC23WS-SRWG7.aspx>. You may send back the completed questionnaire through e-mail to apac@icao.int, with a copy to yluo@icao.int. I would be grateful if you could have the questionnaire completed as early as possible, **preferably not later than 3 July 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Tao Ma' in a stylized cursive script.

Tao Ma
Regional Director

Enclosure:

Attachment A - Survey Questionnaire: The Necessity to
Implement 128.950MHz for Traffic Information Broadcasts
by Aircraft (TIBA)

Survey Questionnaire

The Necessity to Implement 128.950MHz for Traffic Information Broadcasts by Aircraft (TIBA)

Please proceed to answer following questions until you reach to “End of Questionnaire”

1. Have your State/Administration allotted 128.950MHz to TIBA?

☐ YES, already implemented since _____(date)

Has it been actually used? Please provide specific details:

Will the cancellation of this frequency for TIBA affect the actual operation in your State/Administration? Please provide specific details:

Do you have any new plan to re-allot this frequency? If yes, which service will be used for?

Note: the frequency 123.450 MHz has been reserved by ICAO (Annex 10, Volume V) for air-to-air VHF communications channel.

☐ NO

2. Have your State/Administration allotted other frequencies (such as 123.450 MHz) for TIBA?

☐ YES, the frequency is _____

☐ NO

3. Have your State/Administration allotted 128.950MHz to other services?

☐ YES, the service is _____

Has it been assigned to terrestrial stations?

☐ NO

4. Are there any other issues pertinent to your situation that ICAO should consider when developing plans to re-allot 128.950MHz to other services in the APAC Region? Please provide more comments and suggestions.

-End of Questionnaire-