



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Sub-Group

Fourteenth Meeting (CNS SG/14)

(Abu Dhabi, UAE, 19 – 23 October 2025)

Agenda Item 5: Frequency Management Working Group (FM WG/4) Main Matters

REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL COORDINATION ON SPACE-BASED VHF

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a draft mechanism proposed by ICAO HQ on the regional and interregional coordination on Space-Based VHF. The proposed mechanism is drafted as a general mechanism for all Regions and needs to be adapted to specific coordination processes in the ICAO MID Region, to be applied in the MID Region.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.1

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Meeting may wish to note that during the Frequency Management Group Coordination Meeting (FMG CM 2025), a paper was presented by EUROCONTROL introducing a methodology for developing new frequency planning criteria for Space-Based VHF (SB-VHF), as well as an analysis of the potential impact of SB-VHF communication on the aeronautical VHF band (118–137 MHz), focusing on the European Region.

1.2 As a result of the discussions, the FMG CM invited ICAO and EUROCONTROL to explore possible interregional coordination solutions, particularly involving Canada, the United States, and the MID Region, in order to ensure the global compatibility of SB-VHF systems and their coexistence with existing ground-based VHF systems.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 From the MID Region perspective, the proposed mechanism, at **Appendix A**, provides a baseline for coordination that will be adapted to the regional frequency coordination procedures already in place (i.e. through the Frequency Management Working Group (FM WG) under the CNS SG). The mechanism should also ensure alignment with global ICAO guidance contained in Annex 10, Volume V and Doc 9718 – Handbook on Radio Frequency Spectrum Requirements for Civil Aviation.

2.2 The proposed draft mechanism, developed by ICAO HQ, is provided in Appendix A for review by the CNS SG and FM WG. It outlines the roles, responsibilities, and communication flow between ICAO HQ, Regional Offices, and States/Administrations for both intra-regional and interregional coordination of SB-VHF frequency use.

2.3 2.4 In the MID Region, this mechanism will support the coordination of potential SB-VHF activities with other Regions (notably EUR/NAT, AFI and APAC), and ensure that any new SB-VHF

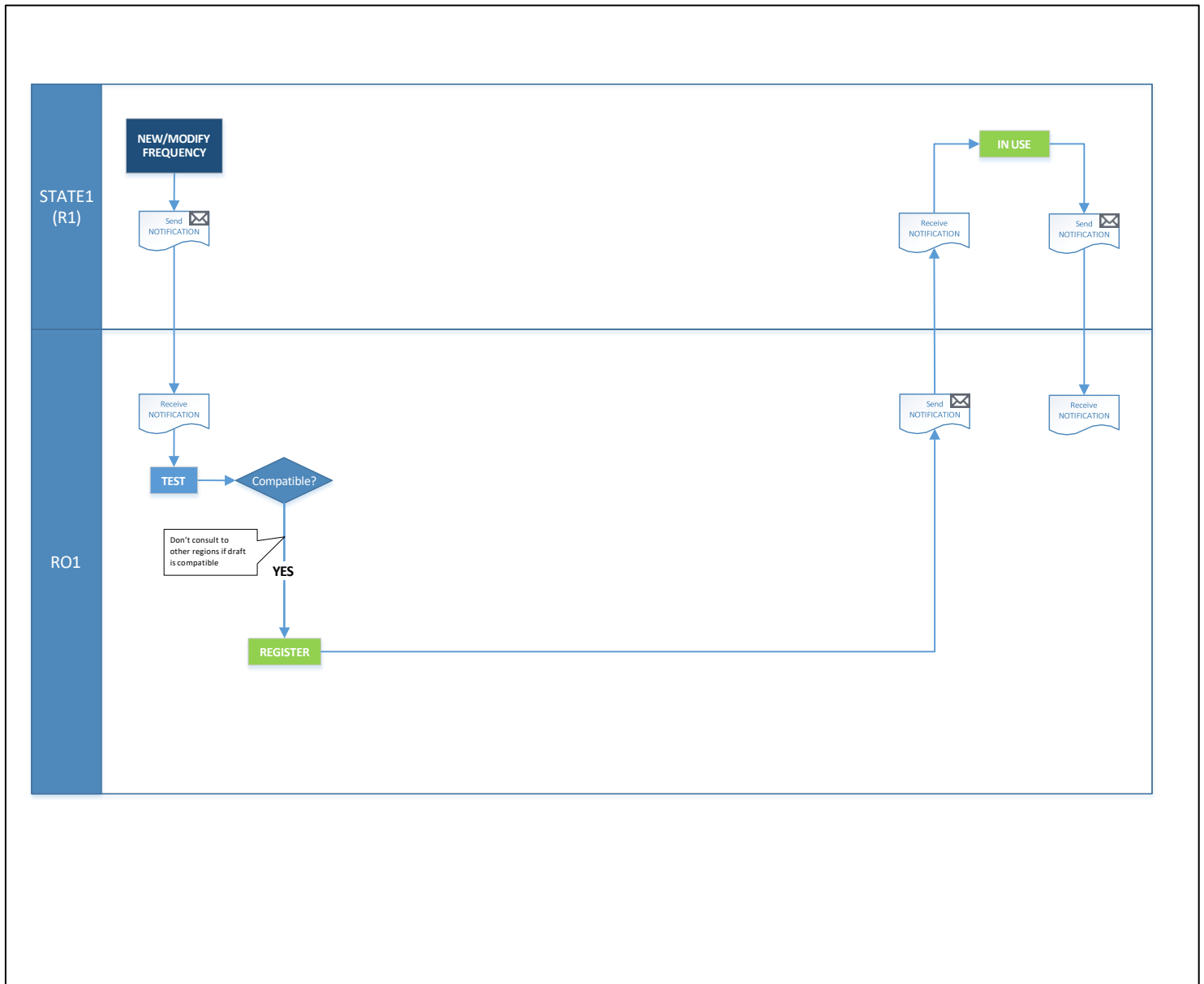
assignments or trials are technically compatible with existing terrestrial VHF systems.

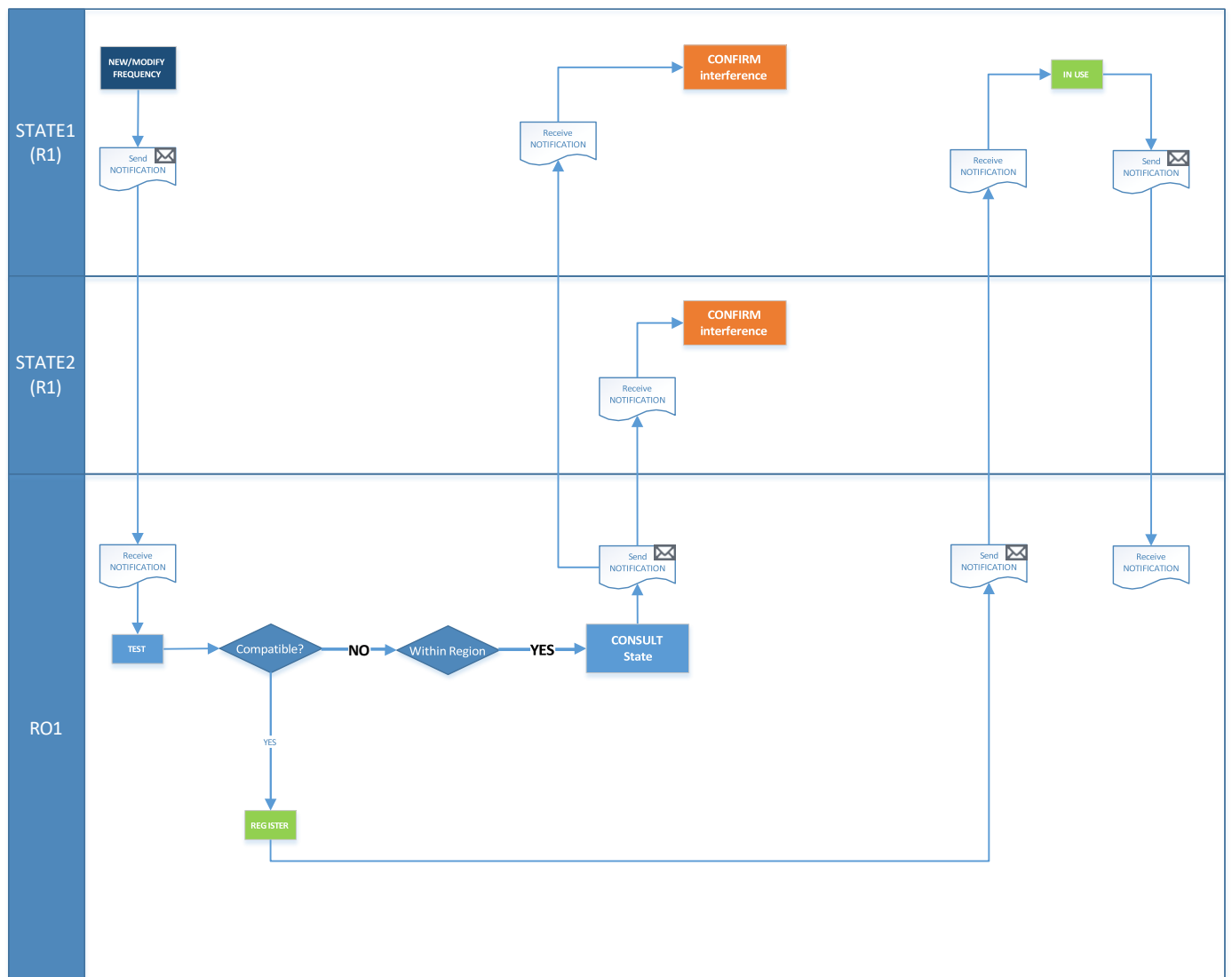
3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

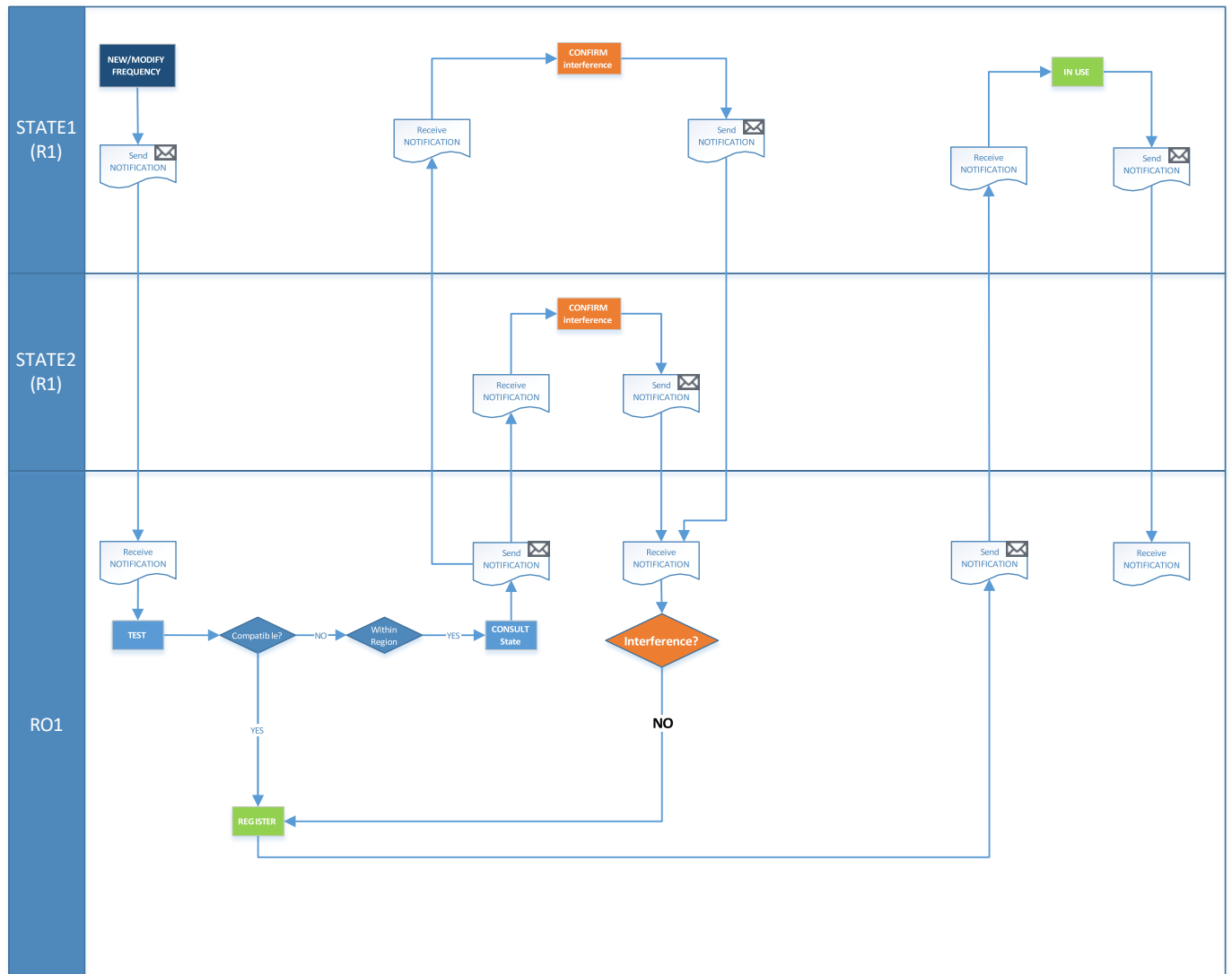
3.1 The meeting is invited to:

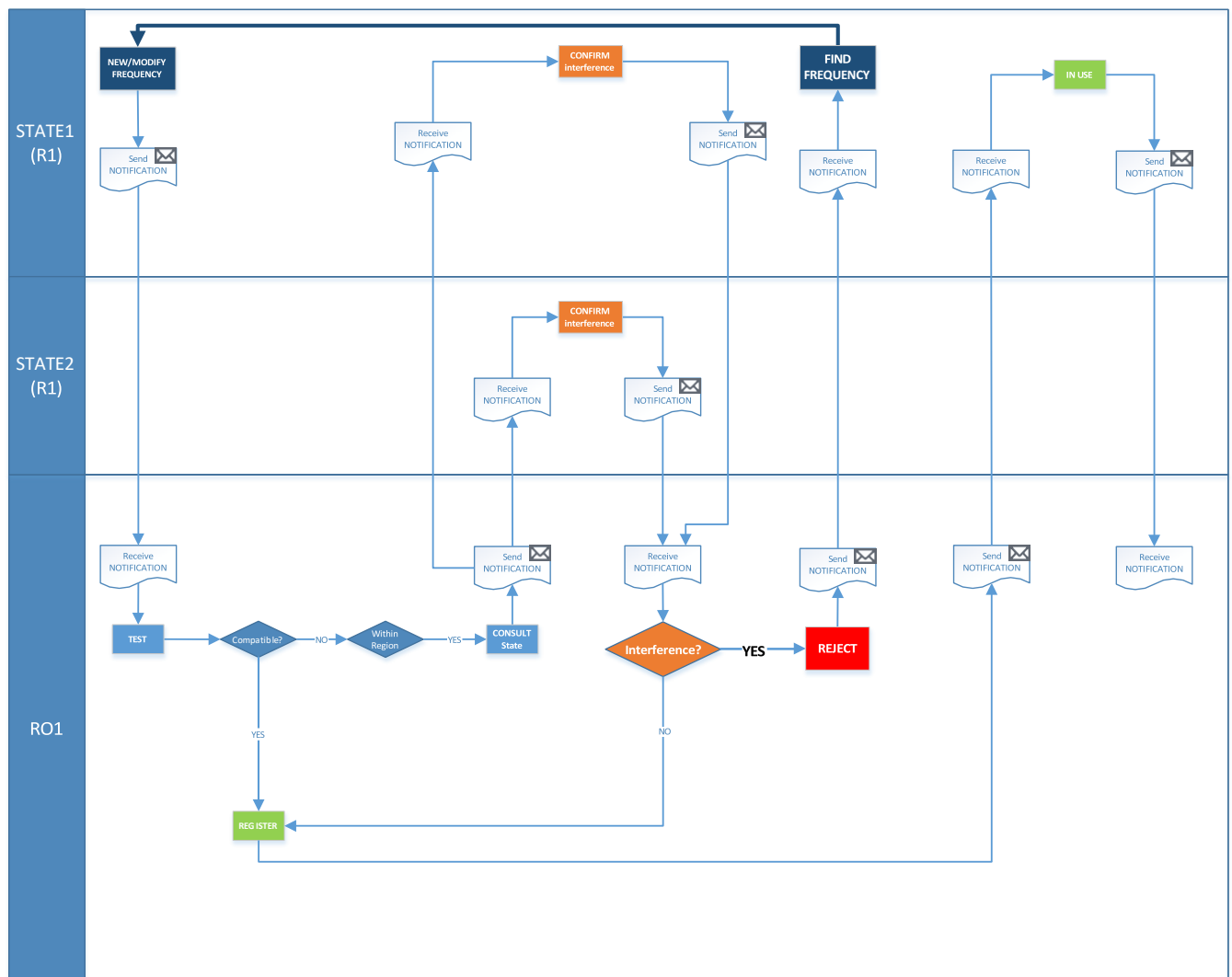
- a) review and provide comments on the draft mechanism for coordination of Space-Based VHF systems as presented in **Appendix A**;
- b) brainstorm about the adaptation of the ICAO HQ mechanism to reflect the MID Region's coordination structure (CNS SG and FM WG); and
- c) decide about the way forward about the coordination with adjacent Regions (e.g. EUR/NAT, AFI and APAC) through ICAO, to ensure interregional compatibility and protection of aeronautical VHF communications.

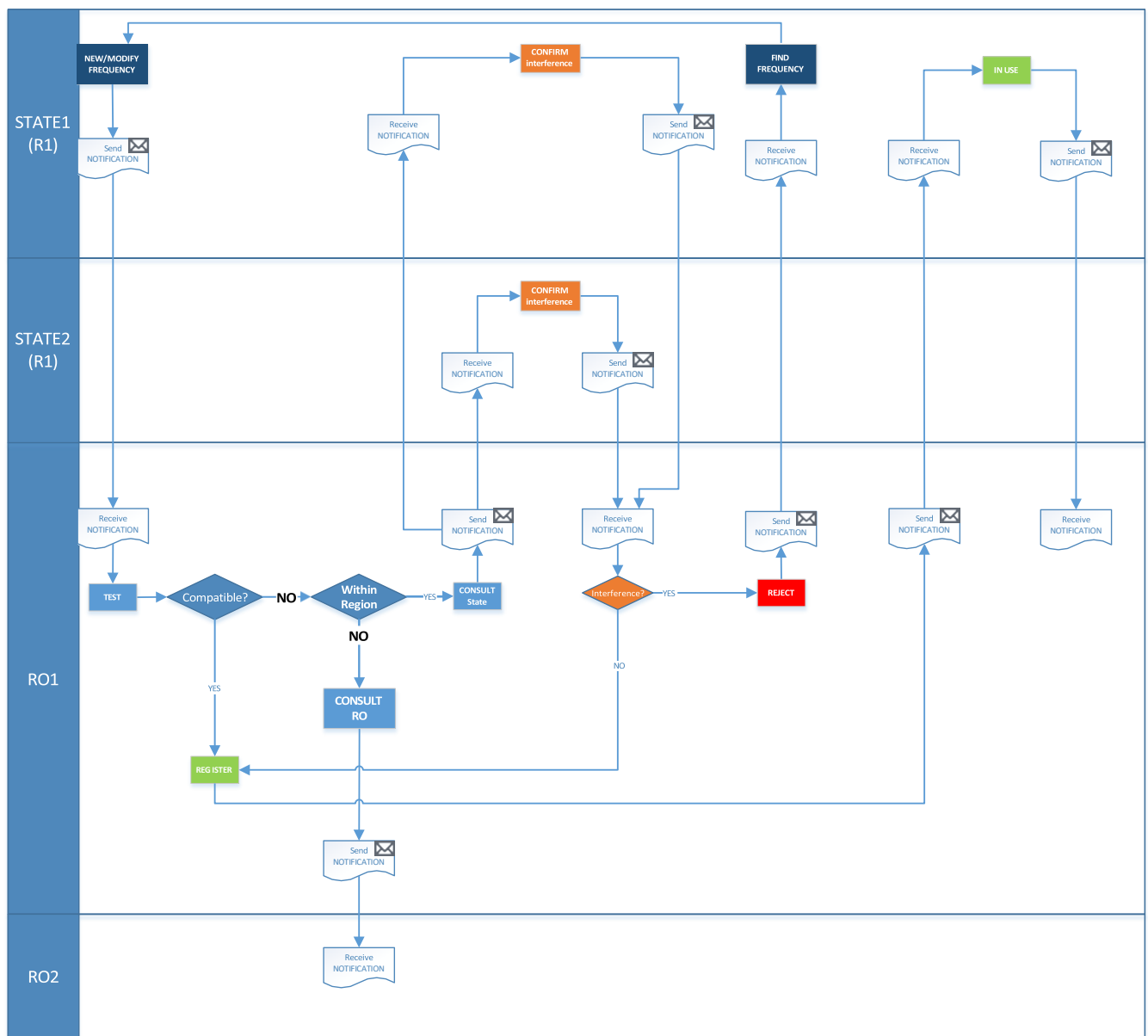
Appendix A: Draft Regional and Interregional mechanism for coordination of SB-VHF

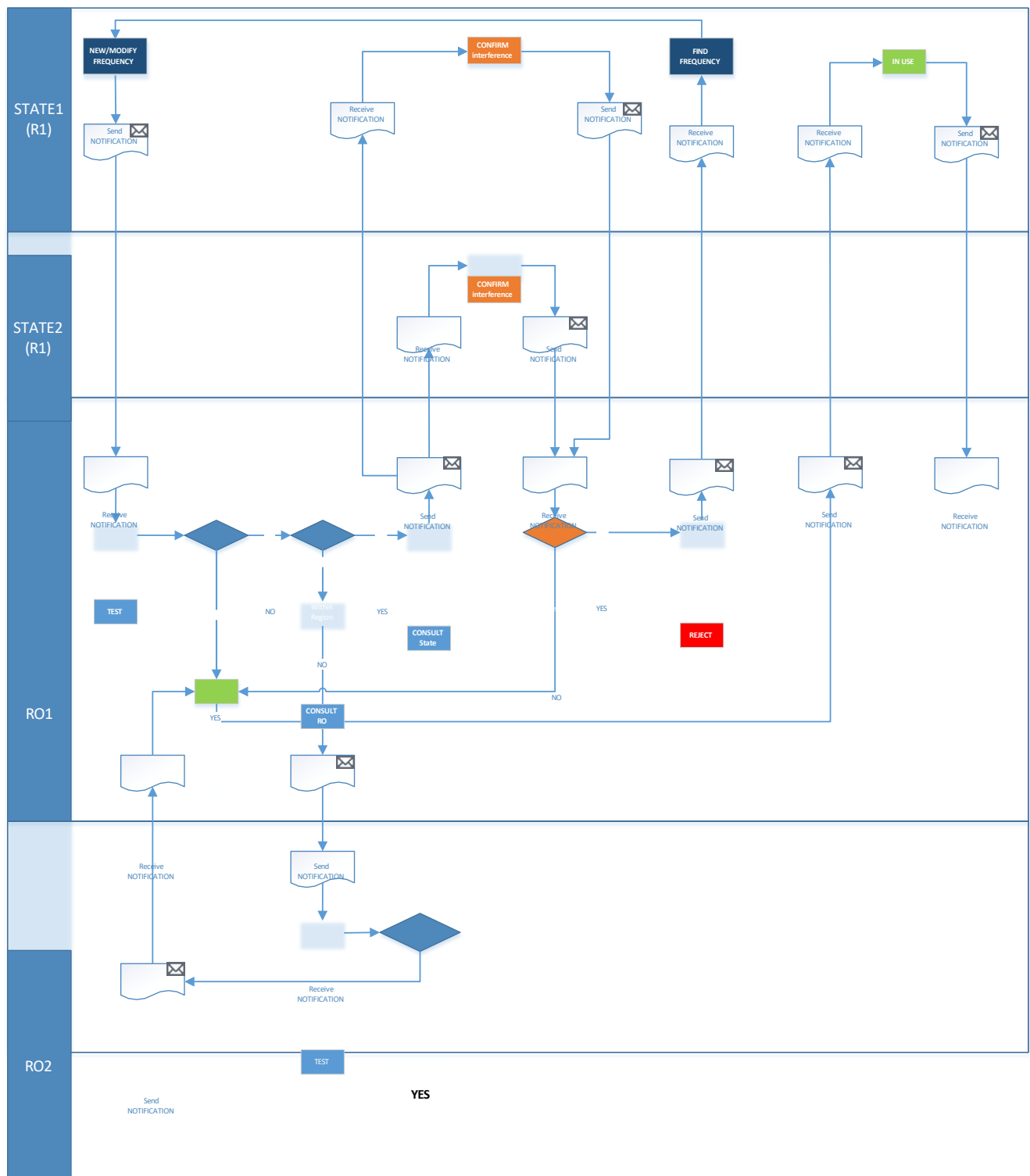


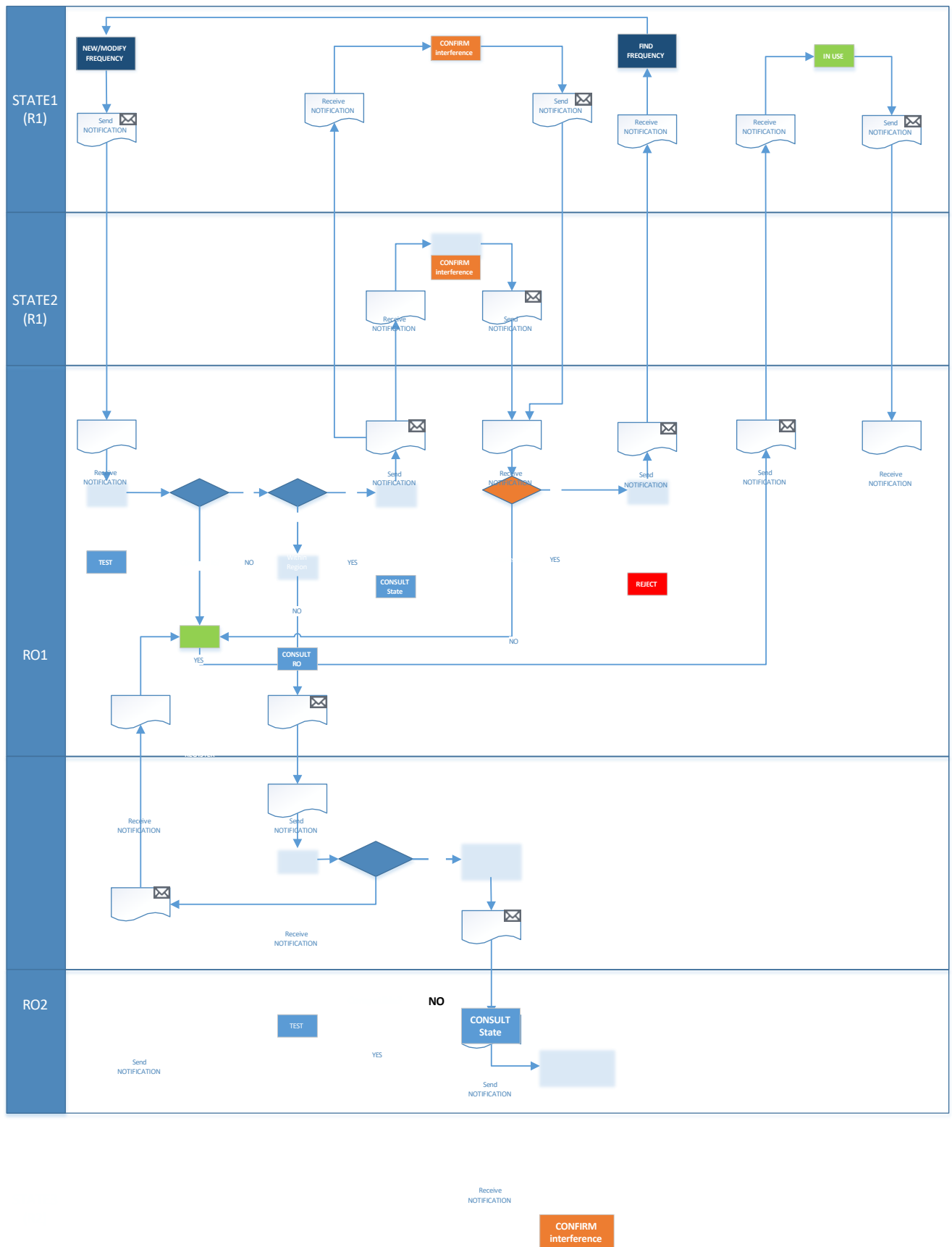


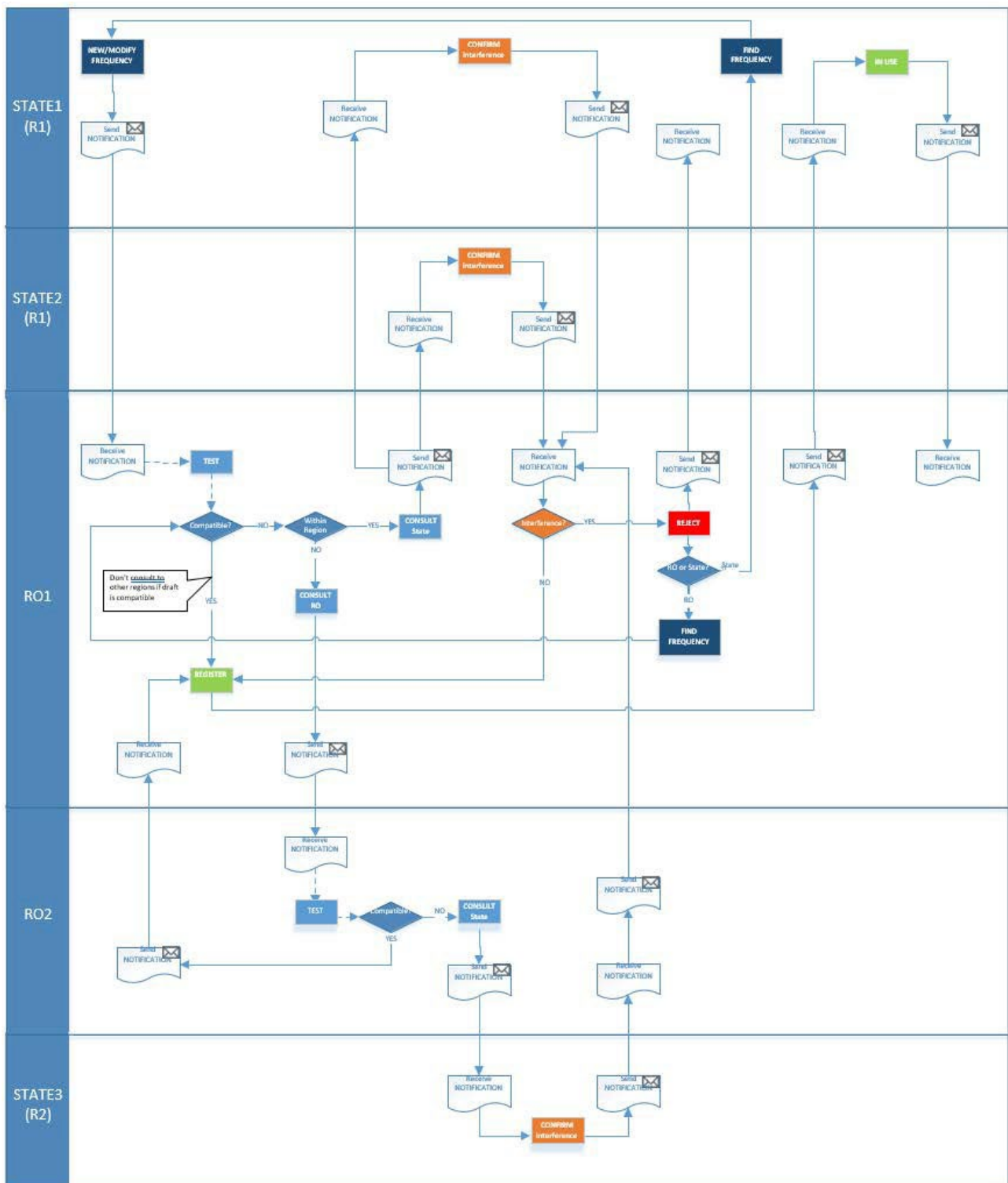












Draft Regional and Inter-regional coordination procedure

(Texts related to coordination are extracted from Volume II Handbook)

Editor's note: No change is proposed to the Foreword. The general explanation below will be applicable even after the introduction of space-based VHF.

FOREWORD

Implementation of frequency assignment planning criteria

The material contained in this volume is general in nature and should be applicable in all ICAO Regions. However, implementation in the Regions has to take place through relevant decisions by the Regional Planning and Implementation Groups (PIRGs), which are responsible for amending and updating provisions of the Regional Air Navigation Plans.

Specific regional requirements on the use of radio frequencies have been accommodated as much as practicable. Future specific regional requirements can be implemented through relevant regional air navigation agreements and/or incorporated in future revisions to this Handbook.

It should be noted that the coordination of frequency assignments as well as the development of the regional frequency assignment plans fall within the remit of the ICAO Regional Offices and that these Offices should be consulted when amendments to these plans are being considered by ICAO Contracting States.

Note.— In some Regions, for administrative and practical purposes, different coordination mechanisms may be implemented.

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Editor's note: Propose an addition of new 2.6.7.2 and a slight modification to the original 2.6.7.2.

2.6.7 Coordination of frequency assignments

2.6.7.1 Frequency coordination must take place with all States that may be affected by a proposal for a new frequency assignment or where the characteristics of an existing assignment are modified. Normally, such coordination is effected through the ICAO Regional Offices which have a central and coordinating role in frequency assignment planning.

2.6.7.2 For specific services such as space-based VHF, prior to the regional agreement on the frequency assignment, interregional coordination is required, through ICAO Regional Offices, to ensure that aeronautical radio communication and navigation systems in those regions concerned are protected from harmful interference.

2.6.7.3² At the interregional level, bilateral or multilateral coordination procedures should be agreed ~~among~~^{between} the ICAO Regional Offices involved, while documenting, inter alia, actions with timelines and information required for coordination. Typical information required for such interregional coordination includes operational frequencies, type of operation, the geographical coordinates of the location, the designated operational coverage area, satellite footprint in case of space-based VHF and the date of planned implementation.

Editor's note: Propose to add a new figure, which should be a simplified flow based on the coordination mechanism included in this WP. To be developed.

Figure X-X. Regional and interregional coordination procedures

TBD

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