



International Civil Aviation Organization

NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE

Twenty-Eighth Eastern Caribbean Working Group Meeting (28 E/CAR WG)

Montserrat, 26 to 30 April 2004

28 E/CAR WG – IP/05

06/04/04

Agenda Item 3: Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments
3.7 Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)

OPERATION OF THE E/CAR DIGITAL AFS NETWORK

(Presented by InterCaribbean Aeronautical Communications Limited [IACL])

SUMMARY

This Information Paper presents the concern of IACL for poor response by some States in providing Fault Report summaries on the operation of the E/CAR Digital AFS Network.

1. Introduction

1.1 The efficient functioning of the E/CAR Digital AFS Network is very dependent on the timely provision of reports on faults being experienced by States. While it has been appreciated that there is a mechanism at the domestic level, IACL has repeatedly requested States to provide them with a weekly summary of faults reported.

1.2 Only two States have been providing the required summaries on a regular basis and failure by the other States to forward reports has denied IACL being better able to follow up on outages and thereby reduce any down time.

2. Discussion

2.1 With the management of the E/CAR Digital AFS Network being taken over by Cable & Wireless, an integral aspect of that contract is Fault Reporting. Indeed the reliability of the current and any future system is very dependent on reports on outages being received by the Fault Reporting Centre on a timely basis. In lengthy discussion with Cable & Wireless on the new contract for their management of the system, they have requested that IACL ensure that all States are reminded of their obligation to report faults.

2.2 IACL has assured Cable & Wireless that it will discuss with E/CAR States the concern for appropriate procedures to be put in place at each ATS Unit using either the AFS Digital Voice or Data System to ensure that Fault Reporting procedures are observed. In addition States are reminded to submit to IACL weekly summaries on faults reported.

2.3 Cable & Wireless has agreed to meet shortly with staff of the TTCAA in Trinidad to explain, inter alia, the features of Frame Relay and their approach to management of the E/CAR Digital AFS Network that will include Fault Reporting. A similar meeting in Barbados will follow for their Air Traffic Services Units Staff and at a selected point each for the Windward and Leeward Islands in the OECS. These meetings will be arranged for dates that are mutually convenient.

3. Suggested Action

3.1 E/CAR States are invited to take note of the text of this Information Paper, in particular paragraph 2.2

- END -