



Agenda Item 6: Other business

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADDRESSING THE DUPLICATION OF ICARD 5LNC CODE
BY SAM STATES**

(Presented by Venezuela)

SUMMARY	
This working paper proposes States to update the information regarding the ICARD 5LNC focal points, in order to coordinate the conduction of the project for the updating of codes in the Region.	
REFERENCES:	
ICAO Annex 11 ICARD website	
ICAO strategic objectives:	<i>A - Safety</i> <i>B - Air navigation capacity and efficiency</i>

1 Introduction

1.1 The ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices to be applied for 5LNC can be found in Annex 11 - *Air Traffic Services*, Chapter 2, Section 2.14, and Annex 11 - *Air Traffic Services*, Appendix 2. A five-letter name code (5LNC) is assigned when there is a need for a significant point that is not marked by a **navaid location** and is used for **ATC purposes**. The first Internet application of the ICAO Codes and Route Designators (ICARD) was implemented in 1998. It was developed to support the allocation of five-letter name codes (5LNC) in the ICAO EUR/NAT Region. This application gradually extended to other ICAO Regions starting in 2005, and the ICARD database is available to all ICAO Regions since late 2010.

1.2 ICAO has issued State letter 2017/101 - *ICAO International Codes and Route Designators (ICARD) database system*, shown in the **Appendix**. This letter contains the rules on duplication of the 5LNC and urges States to comply with Annex 11 and Annex 15 provisions regarding the code system.

2 Discussion

2.1 At present, Venezuela is carrying out a series of activities in order to resolve code duplication problems.

2.2 In this sense, the following scheme has been considered for a work strategy:

- a) Check if ICAO or ICARD has the 5-letter codes contained in the AIP of the country and if these have been recognised.
- b) If codes are repeated other Regions.
- c) If codes are repeated within the Region.
- d) If points are repeated in other adjacent FIRs.
- e) First, check if the code with the adjacent FIR is not repeated in the Region or in another Region.
- f) Locate in the page, the 5LNC contacts or focal points for the FIRs involved (in this case, Piarco and Guyana), and agree with them on the code coordinates or point of interest.
- g) Coordinate with the adjacent FIR focal point in order to provide the same coordinate of the common point to the ICARD database.
- h) Check each code reported by ICARD as duplicated with another Region or in the same Region.

2.2.1 All of the above, in compliance with the four rules recommended by ICAO in the State letter.

2.3 However, when analysing the points indicated as duplicates, the same ICARD page has a link *Find Allocated 5LNC* to check whether there really is duplication. For example, in the case of Venezuela, it was noted that, when searching for the code ETALA, listed as duplicated with “*also SAM also NACC*”, it only appeared for Venezuela.

2.4 Another aspect presented for discussion by the Meeting is the updating of the focal point database, since there is need to make contact with the adjacent FIR in order to unify the coordinates of a common point. Venezuela has common points with Trinidad and Tobago, but there is no focal point for that State in the ICARD page.

3. **Suggested action:**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided;
- b) analyse the proposal to review each point indicated as duplicate by the State involved;
- c) request ICARD to update the information on the corresponding focal points;
- d) analyse any other issue it may deem appropriate.



International
Civil Aviation
Organization

Organisation
de l'aviation civile
internationale

Organización
de Aviación Civil
Internacional

Международная
организация
гражданской
авиации

منظمة الطيران
المدني الدولي

国际民用
航空组织

Tel.: +1 514-954-8219 ext. 6718

Ref.: AN 11/45.5-17/101

11 August 2017

Subject: ICAO International Codes and Route Designators
(ICARD) database system

Action required: Implement the five-letter name-code
(5LNC) Duplicate Resolution Rules and submit updated
information on 5LNCs

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to inform you that ICAO completed the initial rollout of the new ICARD platform in March 2017. This updated ICARD database system, accessible on the ICAO Secure Portal, replaces the previous platform and will meet the needs of States to support efficient and safe implementation of unique 5LNCs.

2. The update of the ICARD system is of the utmost importance as the current worldwide non-compliance with Annex 11 — *Air Traffic Services*, (Appendix 2, paragraphs 3.1, 3.4) regarding 5LNCs uniqueness, continues to create difficulties causing potential safety-related issues. The following issues related to 5LNCs have been identified:

- a) a significant number of duplicated codes (including codes in triplicate and in quadruplicate);
- b) similar sounding codes in close proximity or on the same flight plan route; and
- c) differences between 5LNC data registered in ICARD and published in national Aeronautical Information Publications (AIPs)

3. In light of the increasing demand for 5LNCs to support implementation of performance-based navigation (PBN) without compromising safety, I invite you to carry out the actions described in the attachment through your State's ICARD focal point. Please contact the ICAO Regional Office accredited to your State should you require further support and guidance.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fang Liu
Secretary General

Enclosure:

Update of the ICARD database and resolution
of duplicated 5LNCs

UPDATE OF THE ICARD DATABASE AND RESOLUTION OF DUPLICATED 5LNCs

The update of the ICARD system and the resolution of 5LNC duplicates are of the utmost importance and all States are invited to take action as described below.

1. CLEAN-UP OF THE ICARD PLATFORM

1.1 A comparison of your State's list of 5LNCs recorded in ICARD and 5LNCs published in your State's national Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) shall be undertaken to identify any discrepancies and to update the information in ICARD, to align with the information contained in your State's AIP. To get a list of your State's 5LNCs allocated in ICARD go to <https://www4.icao.int/ICARD> and:

- a) enter authorized username and password;
- b) in the main menu click on "Downloads"; and
- c) in the "List All per Country" option, select Region and Country, and click on the tabs to launch a report in pdf or excel formats.

1.2 ICARD shall be used as the central system for reservation and allocation of 5LNCs. The ICAO Regional Office accredited to your State shall be advised of any 5LNCs that are used but not recorded in ICARD, as well as any 5LNCs that are allocated to your State but no longer used and which shall be released from ICARD. Your State's contribution to this exercise will significantly reduce the creation of duplicates as well as enable ICAO to identify and resolve existing duplicates or similar-sounding 5LNCs that have a potential safety impact.

1.3 States are reminded of ICAO Annex 11 and Annex 15 provisions regarding 5LNCs, and the need to coordinate with other States and all ICAO Regional Offices to resolve existing duplicated 5LNCs.

2. 5LNC DUPLICATE RESOLUTION RULES

2.1 Whenever possible Member States with 5LNCs of the same name but allocated to more than one physical location (duplicates, triplicates, quadruplicates, etc.) shall discuss the voluntary release of duplicated 5LNCs to allow one State to retain that 5LNC. If no resolution is agreed, the following 5LNC duplicate resolution rules will apply:

Rule 1. Priority is given to (a) 5LNC(s) which is (are) already allocated in ICARD. Duplicated 5LNCs that are not allocated in ICARD shall be replaced by new 5LNCs. If two or more 5LNCs of the same name are in ICARD, Rule 2 applies.

Example: 5LNC KOBAS allocated in ICARD to two Member States.

Note: the Regional Office(s) shall advise the State(s) concerned to change those duplicated 5LNCs not in ICARD. Publication in AIP(s) shall not be considered as sub-criteria in these Resolution Rules.

Rule 2. If two or more 5LNCs of the same name are allocated in ICARD:

- a) creation date (date when the 5LNC was allocated in ICARD for that State)

If there are two or more 5LNCs with a creation date, the earliest date will have priority. After verification that the State with the priority date is still using that 5LNC, (a) new 5LNC(s) shall be proposed by the Regional Office(s) to the other State(s) with the same duplicated 5LNC;

- b) creation date versus no creation date

(A) new 5LNC(s) shall be proposed to the State(s) with no ICARD creation date;

- c) No creation date

If there are two or more 5LNCs of the same name without creation dates, Rule 3 applies.

Rule 3. If Rules 1 and 2 do not resolve the 5LNC duplication, the following characteristics will have priority:

- a) 5LNCs used in both terminal airspace (SIDs/STARs) and en-route airspace;
Note: The amount of changes foreseen and publication required in AIP sections AD and ENR could be very large
- b) 5LNCs used in high-density/high-complexity terminal airspace (e.g. SIDs/STARs, holdings, instrument approach procedures);
- c) 5LNCs used in en-route airspace (e.g. crossovers between two or more ATS routes, transfer of control points, upper/lower airspace routes, etc). Priority shall be given to highest number of ATS routes crossings through the 5LNCs concerned;
- d) 5LNCs used in low-density/low-complexity terminal airspace;
- e) 5LNCs used in other routes (domestic, temporary, helicopter, etc.)

Rule 4. Resolving conflicts:

- a) if any of the previous rules do not resolve 5LNC duplicates and if the 5LNC duplicates are within the area of accreditation of one Regional Office, that Regional Office will make the decision;
- b) if the 5LNC duplicates are in different regions, the Regional Offices involved shall agree on a resolution;
- c) if any of the previous rules do not resolve the 5LNC duplicates, ICAO Headquarters, in coordination with the relevant Regional Office(s), will make the final decision.