



Agenda Item 3: NOTAM contingency plans, AIM deficiencies and ICARD system

Follow-up to issues observed in the 5LNC Module of the ICARD database

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This working paper addresses some issues identified in the ICARD database that supports the implementation of the unique 5-letter name code (5LNC) used for significant point designators, as stipulated in ICAO Annex 11, and recommendations for their resolution.	
REFERENCES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annex 11 – <i>Air Traffic Services</i>• Annex 15 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation• SAM/AIM/11 multilateral meeting	
ICAO strategic objectives:	<i>A - Safety</i> <i>B – Air navigation capacity and efficiency</i> <i>E – Environmental protection</i>

1. **Background**

1.1 The ICARD database was established in 2010, and was made available to States through the ICAO portal. The purpose of the database, *inter alia*, is to expedite the efficient and safe implementation of the 5-letter name codes (5LNC) for proper planning of routes and flight procedures, while supporting ATS speech communications and aeronautical data management.

1.2 The SAM/AIM/11 meeting analysed the issue identified in the ICARD database.

2. **Discussion**

2.1 The Meeting may recall that, in March 2017, ICAO finished the initial implementation of the new ICARD platform. The updated ICARD database, which can be accessed through the ICAO secure portal, replaces the previous platform and will meet the needs of States to support the efficient and safe implementation of 5LNC.

2.2 The updating of the ICARD system is of utmost importance, since global noncompliance of the provisions of Annex 11 – *Air traffic services*, (Appendix 2, par. 3.1 and 3.4) concerning the uniqueness of 5LNC, continues causing difficulties that might give rise to safety issues. The following issues related to 5LNC have been identified:

- a) a significant number of duplicated codes (including tripled and quadrupled codes);
- b) similar-sounding codes established in close proximity or on the same flight plan route; and
- c) differences between the 5LNC data contained in the ICARD database and the data published in the national aeronautical information publications (AIPs).

2.3 The SAM/AIM/11 meeting analysed the issue related to the ICARD database.

2.4 At that meeting, the Secretariat showed how to use of the ICARD platform. It also reminded the meeting of the rules that will help the States resolve or reduce the duplicated or similar-sounding points located in close proximity or along the same route, as set forth in State Letter AN 11/45.5-17/101.

2.5 Furthermore, States had committed to strive to resolve these issues and submit some action plans at the SAM/IG/21 meeting or in other forums.

2.6 The meeting also recommended that the Secretariat make its utmost to organise a workshop on ICARD for all those involved in the use of this database in Brazil.

2.7 During the 2018-2019 period, the Regional Office, in managing the ICARD codes, continues to observe difficulties, including:

- a) States use codes that do not appear in the AIPs
- b) States maintain codes in the AIP that are no longer in use
- c) States publish procedures or new routes using 5LNC codes that have not been validated yet
- d) In many cases, 5LNC codes for waypoints located in FIR boundaries have coordinates that differ in both AIPs.
- e) On occasions, the 5LNC codes requested for waypoints in FIR boundaries are not coordinated between the States involved
- f) Some States do not take into account sound similarity when requesting codes

2.8 ICARD management at ICAO Headquarters has identified a list of duplicated 5LNC codes, which is shown in Appendix A to this working paper. The Meeting could urge States to implement the 5LNC duplicate or triplicate resolution rules contained in the attachment to State Letter AN 11/45.5-17/101, item 2.

2.9 The Meeting could report on the action taken to reduce the aforementioned problems. Furthermore, it could design strategies to resolve in the short, medium and long term the code duplicates, triplicates and other issues shown in the Appendix.

3. **Suggested action**

3.1 Based on the above, the Meeting is invited to:

- a) report on the action taken since the SAM/AIM/11 meeting to resolve issues observed in the waypoint code module of the ICARD database;
- b) review the information contained in Appendix A;
- c) follow, to the extent possible, the recommendations of the General Secretariat

regarding the updating of the ICARD database and the resolution of duplicated 5LNCs;

- d) urge those States that have not done so yet, to update their list of responsible planners;
- e) review the lists of 5LNC points and amend them as needed; and
- f) submit to the Regional Office any comment or information that will improve the functions and management of the updated ICARD platform.
