



International Civil Aviation Organization

The Third Meeting of ICAO Asia/Pacific Air Traffic Flow Management Steering Group (ATFM/SG/3)

Singapore, 10 – 14 March 2014

Agenda Item 5: Development of Regional ATFM Framework

ATFM SERVICE CATEGORIES (AIRSPACE)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an initial draft suite of airspace categories for ATFM Services, for further consideration and development by the ATFM Steering Group.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Second Meeting of the Air Traffic Flow Management Steering Group (ATFM/SG/2) agreed that categories of airspace sector within which specific ATFM services were applicable should be defined.

1.2 Preferred ATFM Service Categories would be based on airspace complexity and traffic density, and would be used to define the minimum suite of capability elements required for each sector.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The ATFM/SG/2 Meeting discussed the categorization of airspace for ATFM services, and noted that such categories should be determined by traffic density and airspace complexity, where complexity measurement included such factors as traffic mix (IFR and VFR traffic, jet v. non-jet, military activity, general aviation activity, etc.), airspace constraints, environmental and meteorological factors.

2.2 The circulated early draft version of the Interim Framework for Collaborative ATFM included a proposed simple suite of ATFM Service Categories based on assumed complexity and density expected. The proposed categories were presented on a sliding scale ranging from Terminal Areas servicing major international or high density domestic airports, through en-route sectors overlying such areas or containing major routes between them, down to Regional TMA/TWR and other non-surveillance airspace. These categories were based on the basis of being a simple structure that could be readily implemented.

2.3 The service category level or Tier would be amended upwards where traffic density, complexity or other factors dictated that a higher level of Service was appropriate.

2.4 The following categories were proposed:

- Tier A: Terminal Areas (radar or ADS-B surveillance) servicing major international and high density domestic airports;
- Tier B: En-route ATC sectors (radar or ADS-B surveillance) overlying, or servicing major ATS routes between, Tier A terminal areas;
- Tier C: En-route ATC sectors (non-surveillance) adjoining Tier B sectors or servicing ATS routes between Tier A terminal areas.
- Tier D: Terminal Areas (radar or ADS-B surveillance) servicing regional domestic or low-density international airports;
- Tier E: En-route ATC (radar or ADS-B surveillance) sectors adjoining Tier B sectors, or overlying or servicing ATS routes between Tier D terminal areas;
- Tier F: Regional TMA or TWR/TMA (non-surveillance); and
- Tier G: All other airspace sectors (non-surveillance).

2.5 Feedback from the ATFM Specialist Team suggested that caution should be exercised in order to avoid being constrained by rigid categories, which may not cater to the need for fair and equitable access to airspace and may hinder the participation of some States/Administrations, particularly those with airspace falling in the proposed Tiers B and C.

2.6 ATFM/SG is invited to consider the proposed ATFM Service Categories, including:

- i. the benefits and potential drawbacks of the proposed ATFM Service Category structure;
- ii. appropriate nomenclature and acronyms for the ATFM Service Category structure and for each level within the structure;
- iii. the number of proposed levels, and whether additional categories should be introduced; and
- iv. what flexibility may be required, and how it may be applied in the Framework

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss the benefits and drawbacks of the proposed ATFM Service Category structure and develop any alternative proposals;
- c) agree to nomenclature and acronyms describing the ATFM Service Category structure;
- d) include the ATFM Service Category structure, as amended by the meeting, in the Draft Regional Framework for Collaborative ATFM; and
- e) discuss any other relevant matters as appropriate

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