



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Fifth Meeting of the ICAO New Flight Plan Format Study Group Meeting
(INFPL SG/5)**

**Fifth Meeting
(Cairo, Egypt, 03-05 September 2012)**

Agenda Item 3: Status of Implementation of INFPL in the MID Region

PREPARATIONS AND READINESS FOR APPLICABILITY DATE

(Presented by IATA)

SUMMARY

On 15 Nov 2012 the standard ICAO format for airline flight plans will change. This global ICAO initiative means that several new fields in the ICAO Flight Plan have been added and/or modified to reflect current aircraft navigational and communications capabilities; facilitating enhanced service delivery. This is a significant change for industry that is dependent upon global conformity of States and airlines.

The successful submission, acceptance and management of airline Flight Plans and associated information is critical for flights to operate.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 5.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 To ensure the successful implementation of the ICAO new flight plan format, it is important that airlines are in communication with their appropriate Air Navigation Service Provider(s), and where appropriate Flight Plan system vendor, to understand and comply with the transition.

1.2 ICAO has been working with States and running regional workshops to help ensure an effective transition.

1.3 IATA has been working with airlines and ICAO to ensure ANSPs and airline preparedness for the Applicability Date on 15 November 2012. This includes support to ICAO in the following areas:

- a) Determine and report upon airline preparedness for Nov 2012 transition.
- b) Ensure airlines are aware of ICAO progress on the transition.
- c) Provide key intelligence from the IATA Regions to ICAO HQ.

2. **Airline Preparedness for the New Flight Plan Format**

2.1 A survey was launched by IATA to gauge airlines preparedness Sep 2011. As of August 2012, the results of the launched survey show that **89%** of member airlines will be ready for the transition. IATA has initiated further follow up action at the Regional Level to co-ordinate with the airlines who have not yet responded to make sure that they will meet the Applicability Date.

2.2 An IATA information paper was distributed to all airlines in March 2012. The paper provides information on all the key areas relating to the transition in addition to links to information sources.

3. **Regional Summary**

3.1 As of August 2012, 70% of member airlines have already confirmed that they will be ready for the flight plan format changes by November 2012. Coordination is on-going with the remaining airlines to make sure that they will meet the Applicability Date.

3.2 Airlines have already started testing with ANSPs.

3.3 Successful testing feedback was received from airlines for testing with Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE. Testing is still on-going with other ANSPs.

3.4 On the other hand, initial testing has also indicated that there are system bugs that require resolution. This also calls for testing as early as possible.

4. **Concerns and Associated Risks**

4.1 A number of States are indicating late readiness which leaves limited testing time.

4.2 Initial testing results indicate there will be system bugs that require resolution – therefore “late” testing is a concern.

4.3 A number of States are planning manual conversion, which means that human error and staff training will be a concern.

4.4 Few States have provided no information, and with 3 months left to transition, this is a major concern.

5. **Action by the meeting**

5.1 This meeting is requested to:

- a) Urge all States to ensure that effective 15 November 2012 they will accept and disseminate ‘NEW’ FPL’s only and without loss of service.
- b) Encourage States to share their experience and results from testing with airlines, with IATA to facilitate airlines preparedness and avoid duplication of testing with ANSPs.
- c) Urge States to coordinate as closely as possibly with airlines as we lead up to the Applicability Date.