



International Civil Aviation Organization  
Eastern and Southern African Office

**Eleventh Meeting of the Air Traffic Services/Aeronautical Information  
Service/Search and Rescue Sub-Group (ATS/AIS/SAR SG/11)  
(Nairobi, Kenya, 26 - 30 April 2010)**

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**Agenda Item 10: Transition to new ICAO Flight Plan Content**

**EFFORTS TO HARMONIZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW FPL  
PROVISIONS**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

<b>SUMMARY</b>
<p>This paper presents the efforts being put in place to guarantee the harmonized implementation of the Amendment 1 to the 15th edition of PANS-ATM (Doc 4444) related to flight plan.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is at <b>paragraph 3</b>.</p>
<b>REFERENCES</b>
<p>PANS-ATM Doc 4444 State Letter AN 13/2.1-08/50 dated 25/06/2008 State Letter AN 13/2.1-09/9 dated 06/02/2009 This Working Paper is related to Strategic Objectives: <b>A</b> and <b>D</b></p>

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Amendment No. 1 to the Fifteenth Edition of the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) was approved, to take effect from 15 November 2012.

1.2 The amendment establishes new provisions to the ICAO model flight plan form and related ATS messages to allow ATM systems to make optimum use of advanced capabilities already onboard the aircraft as well as to meet the evolving requirements of automated ATM systems.

1.3 The new provisions are an interim step towards a Global ATM system as envisaged in the Global ATM Operational Concept.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 After the approval of the amendment and considering that the transition from the current flight plan form and associated requirements to the new flight plan may present challenges for States and organizations involved in the processing of flight plans, ICAO has developed the guidance contained in State Letter AN 13/2.1-09/9 dated 06/02/2009.

2.2 The primary purpose of this guidance is to support a coordinated global effort during the transition period so that a successful and coordinated transition is achieved by the applicability date of 15 November 2012.

2.3 Also to support the transition, a public website was developed by ICAO where States, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and airspace users are able to find information regarding the implementation status of the Amendment and where the most common issues and difficulties encountered are discussed and solutions provided.

2.4 The mentioned website, named Flight Plan Implementation Tracking System (FITS) was publicly announced via State Letter AN 13/2 -2010/31 dated 29/03/2010 and can be accessed at <http://www2.icao.int/en/FITS/Pages/home.aspx> and has the objective to support the global effort to a harmonized implementation of the new provisions by the applicability date to guarantee continuity and safety of operations.

2.5 In view of the implications of the new provisions in the automated flight data processing systems and the associated operating practices, the transition period needs to be carefully planned taking into account compatibility with existing systems. It is known that any incompatibility in the processing capability could have significant impact on continuity of operations with implication on safety and efficiency.

2.6 The meeting must see the Transition Guidance and the FITS as a tool to help all the ATM community in the transition towards the new flight plan provisions.

## 3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the content of this paper;
- b) Adopt the transition guidelines contained in State Letter AN 13/2.1-09/9 dated 06/02/2009 as the basis for the regional transition strategy;
- c) Review the content of the FITS;
- d) Update the fields where necessary; and
- e) Use the system to track the implementation around the world and report and clarify any issue that may be found in the implementation process.

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