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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ICAO FLIGHT PLAN FORM AND ATS MESSAGES

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has published changes to the content and format of the ICAO flight plan form and ATS messages in Amendment 1 to the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, DOC 4 444), 15th Edition which will become globally applicable on 15 November 2012.
- 1.2 The changes are made in order to meet the needs of aircraft with advanced capabilities and the evolving requirements of automated air traffic management (ATM) systems.

2 Definitions

- 2.1 **PRESENT** format is defined as ICAO flight plan and ATS messages format currently in use as specified in DOC 4444, 15th Edition.
- 2.2 **NEW** format is defined as ICAO flight plan and ATS messages format specified in Amendment 1 to DOC 4444, 15th Edition.

3 Changes to ICAO New Flight Plan Format

- 3.1 Significant changes in Amendment 1 to the PANS-ATM are as follows:

Item 7 – Aircraft Identification

The aircraft identification cannot exceed 7 alphanumeric characters and must not include hyphens or symbols.

Item 10 – Equipment and Capabilities

The new indicators for COM & NAV and SURVEILLANCE equipment & capabilities

Item 18 – Other Information

Hyphens or oblique strokes should only be used as prescribed. Other changes include formatting, indicator definitions, specific grammar for special handling (STS), and new indicator for Area Navigation (RNAV) and Required Navigation Performance (RNP).

3.2 Flight plans cannot be filed more than 120 hours prior to the Estimated Off Block Time (EOBT) of the flight.

3.3 Full details of Amendment 1 to DOC 4444, 15th Edition are available at:

<http://www2.icao.int/en/FITS/FITSLibrary/PANS%20ATM%20Amendment.pdf>

4 Regional Implementation

4.1 The ICAO Asia Pacific Region has adopted a phased implementation from 1 January 2012 until 15 November 2012.

4.2 The phased implementation comprises three phases:

Phase 1 - 1 January to 31 March 2012
Software delivery and internal testing

Phase 2 - 1 April to 30 June 2012
Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) external testing

Phase 3 - 1 July to 15 November 2012
Airspace users testing and implementation

4.3 Brunei would adopt the phased implementation and the tentative date for implementing the NEW ICAO flight plan and ATS messages (that is, Phase 3) is planned to be September 2012.

4.4 Full details of the regional guidance material are contained in the Asia/ Pacific Guidance Material for the Implementation of Amendment 1 to the 15th Edition of PANS-ATM, Doc 4444:

http://www.bangkok.icao.int/edocs/FPL_Guidance_ver4.pdf

5 Flight Plan Submission from September 2012

5.1 Flight plans submitted via AFTN will be accepted in either PRESENT format or NEW format from September 2012 until 0000UTC 15 November 2012.

5.2 Flight plans in the NEW format may be submitted up to 120 hours prior to EOBT.

5.3 Modifications to a NEW format flight plan must refer to the Date of Flight (DOF) indicated in Item 18 of the flight plan to ensure that the correct flight plan is modified.

5.4 Flight plans must be submitted in the NEW format after 0000UTC 15 November 2012.

6 Further information

6.1 ANSPs and airspace users can monitor the implementation status of the NEW ICAO flight plan format at the ICAO website "Flight Plan Implementation Tracking System (FITS)":

<http://www2.icao.int/en/FITS/Pages/home.aspx>

6.2 This AIC can be download on the website : www.civil-aviation.gov.bn