

FIJI AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR



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CHANGES TO ICAO FLIGHT PLAN AND ATS MESSAGE FORMATS **- 15 NOV 2012**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 ICAO announced changes to the ICAO model Flight Plan Form and ATS Messages in Amendment 1 to the 15th Edition of PANS ATM Doc 4444. These changes will become applicable on the 15th November 2012.
- 1.2 The nature and scope of the amendment is to update the ICAO model Flight Plan Form in order to meet the needs of aircraft with advanced capabilities and the evolving requirements of automated Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems.
- 1.3 Changes are required to ATC Flight Data processing systems that check and accept Flight Plans and related messages, use Flight Plan data in displays for Controller reference, use data in ATC automation and affect information that is communicated between ATC units as the flight progresses.
- 1.4 Preparation for the changes should therefore be made well in advance of 15 NOV 2012.
- 1.5 It is essential to the success of this implementation that all Airspace Users be able to submit and process Flight Information in accordance with Amendment 1 to PANS-ATM (Doc 4444) Fifteenth Edition by 15 NOV 2012.

2 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 PRESENT — Format is defined as ICAO Flight Planning and ATS message formats currently in use as specified in DOC 4444, 15th Edition.
- 2.2 NEW — Format is defined as ICAO Flight Planning and ATS message formats specified in Amendment 1 to DOC 4444, 15th Edition.

3 CHANGES TO ICAO FLIGHT PLAN

- 3.1 Significant changes are required to Flight Planning systems to allow for the description of the following aircraft capabilities:
 - presence of relevant serviceable equipment on board the aircraft
 - equipment and capabilities commensurate with flight crew qualifications
 - where applicable, authorization from the appropriate authority

- 3.2 The descriptions of these aircraft capabilities require the introduction of new descriptors and changes to existing fields on the ICAO model Flight Plan Form. In particular, the following item/field content changes to Flight Plans will occur:
- Item 10 Equipment and Capability is expanded to include Communication, Navigational and Surveillance capability, enabling or improving automatic notification to Air Traffic Controllers. This Item is extensively modified with additions, deletions, introduction of alpha-numeric characters and increased field size.
 - New indicators in Item 18 including Performance Based Navigation (PBN) information and notification for special handling (STS).
- 3.2 Full details of Amendment 1 to the 15th Edition of PANS-ATM, Doc 4444, is 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 declared transition period and a Phased Implementation from 1 JAN 2012 until 15 NOV 2012. Fiji intends to implement full processing of the NEW Flight Plan and ATS message formats in November 2012.
- 4.2 Fiji will have in place agreements to manage Flight Plan Data across adjacent International Flight Information Regions to ensure harmonised Air Traffic co-ordination and processing.
- 4.3 From 15 NOV 2012 only **NEW** format will be accepted.
- 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 the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444), Version 4 dated 9 November 2011:
http://www.bangkok.icao.int/edocs/FPL_Guidance_ver4.pdf

5 FLIGHT PLAN SUBMISSION

- 5.1 From 15 November 2012 flight plan submission will conform to the NEW flight plan format.
- 5.2 From 26 JUL 2012, submission by flight planning and dispatch providers will be accepted in either format until 15 NOV 2012.

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 6.1 An ICAO website called the Flight Plan Implementation Tracking System (FITS) has been created to help Air Navigation Service Providers and airspace users to monitor the implementation status of the new ICAO flight plan form: <http://www2.icao.int/en/FITS/Pages/home.aspx>
- 6.2 For up to date information in relation to the progression of system changes and to provide details to customers wishing to conduct testing on a Test platform for the acceptance of New format AFTN messages with the Fiji ANSP, please contact the following Airports Fiji Limited Focal points for this project:-

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