

IBAC Technical Report Summary

Subject: ICAO Flight Plan Study Group

Meeting: Fourth meeting

IBAC File:

Reported by: Steve Hull

Summary:

The meeting focused on developing a concept document for the future flight planning system comprising of five broad sections:

1. Justification for changes to the form. (Why change?)
2. The future flight planning environment and processes with emphasis on how the new system will work on a global basis.
3. Migration of present flight plan elements into the new system.
4. Operational transition.
5. The technical environment.

The flight plan study group concentrated primarily on the ICAO flight plan form located in Doc 4444 ATM/501 discussing changes and additions for the future. The projected future for the group extends to year 2020.

The group focused on flexibility with airspace penetration – such as aircraft qualifications versus pilot qualifications. In addition, access provisions to airspace were discussed. An additional item that would show over-fly and ATC agency permissions (over-fly permits and permission to enter into restricted areas) by adding them to the flight plan form as a new item will be investigated and a paper will be written on the practicality of this item.

Repetitive Flight Plans (RPLs) were discussed and the question was raised as to whether these will be needed in the future, or at the very least, what changes will be needed to the RPL form to accommodate all of the changes for the future. Further investigation will be needed and a paper written on this subject will be done prior to the next meeting.

Message length of the Flight Plan form when transmitting to ATC sectors was discussed and considerable thought was given to maximum characters for each item field.

Search and Rescue was a topic for discussion raising the question of what exactly is required on the flight plan form and is there additional information that is required. Further investigation is needed and a paper will be written on the findings for the next meeting.

Implication for Business Aviation:

Improvements on the ICAO Flight Plan form means better flexibility for ATC because they will have more information and a better understanding of the operator's intent. This gives ATC better decision making abilities. Moreover, for all groups that file flight plans, it could mean more efficient methods for conveying information because of more defining elements added to the form. This will help with the problem of the overused remarks RMK/ field. Overall, this will help both the operator and ATC sectors in conveying information and understanding the requirements of the flight - more detail means less ambiguous information.

Decisions Required:

None. Items are under investigation for further review.

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