

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1033/2006 of 4 July 2006 laying down the requirements on procedures for flight plans in the pre-flight phase for the single European sky (Text with EEA relevance)

*Article 1*

**Subject matter and scope**

1 This Regulation lays down the requirements on procedures for flight plans in the pre-flight phase in order to ensure the consistency of flight plans, repetitive flight plans and associated update messages between operators, pilots and air traffic services units through the Integrated Initial Flight Plan Processing System, either in the period preceding the first delivery of air traffic control clearance for flights taking off from within the airspace covered by this Regulation or in the period preceding entry into that airspace for other flights.

2 This Regulation shall apply to all flights intended to operate or operating as general air traffic in accordance with instrument flight rules within the airspace defined in Article 1(3) of Regulation (EC) No 551/2004.

3 This Regulation shall apply to each of the following parties involved in the submission, modification, acceptance and distribution of flight plans:

- a operators and agents acting on their behalf;
- b pilots and agents acting on their behalf;
- c air traffic services units providing services to general air traffic flying in accordance with instrument flight rules.

*Article 2*

**Definitions**

1 For the purposes of this Regulation the definitions set out in Regulation (EC) No 549/2004 shall apply.

2 In addition to the definitions referred to in paragraph 1 the following definitions shall apply:

1. 'flight plan' means specified information provided to air traffic service units, relative to an intended flight or portion of a flight of an aircraft;
2. 'pre-flight phase' means the period from the first submission of a flight plan until the first delivery of an air traffic control clearance;
3. 'repetitive flight plan' means a flight plan related to a series of frequently recurring, regularly operated individual flights with identical basic features, submitted by an operator for retention and repetitive use by air traffic service units;
4. 'operator' means a person, organisation or enterprise engaged in or offering to engage in an aircraft operation;
5. 'air traffic services unit' (hereinafter ATS unit) means a unit, civil or military, responsible for providing air traffic services;

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6. ‘Integrated Initial Flight Plan Processing System’ (hereinafter IFPS) means a system<sup>F1</sup>... through which a centralised flight planning processing and distribution service, dealing with the reception, validation and distribution of flight plans, is provided within the airspace [<sup>F2</sup>under the responsibility of the States participating in that service];
7. ‘air traffic control clearance’ (hereinafter ATC clearance) means an authorisation for an aircraft to proceed under conditions specified by an air traffic control unit;
8. [<sup>F3</sup>‘IFR’ means the symbol used to designate instrument flight rules;]
9. ‘air traffic control unit’ (hereinafter ATC unit) means variously area control centre, approach control unit or aerodrome control tower;
10. ‘key items of a flight plan’ means the following items of a flight plan:
  - (a) aircraft identification;
  - (b) departure aerodrome;
  - (c) estimated off-block date;
  - (d) estimated off-block time;
  - (e) destination aerodrome;
  - (f) route excluding terminal area procedures;
  - (g) cruising speed(s) and requested flight level(s);
  - (h) aircraft type and category of wake turbulence;
  - (i) flight rules and type of flight;
  - (j) aircraft equipment and its related capabilities;
11. ‘originator’ means a person or organisation submitting flight plans and any associated update messages to the IFPS, including pilots, operators and agents acting on their behalf and ATS units;
12. ‘initial flight plan’ means the flight plan initially submitted by the originator including changes, if any, initiated and accepted by pilots, operators, an ATS unit or the centralised service for flight planning processing and distribution of flight plans during the pre-flight phase;
13. ‘aircraft identification’ means a group of letters, figures or a combination thereof which is either identical to, or the coded equivalent of, the aircraft call sign to be used in air-ground communications, and which is used to identify the aircraft in ground-ground air traffic services communications;
14. ‘estimated off-block date’ means the estimated date on which the aircraft will commence movement associated with departure;
15. ‘estimated off-block time’ means the estimated time at which the aircraft will commence movement associated with departure;
16. [<sup>F4</sup>‘terminal area procedures’ means the standard instrument departures and the standard instrument arrivals as defined in the ICAO procedures for Air Navigation

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Services — Aircraft Operations (PANS-OPS, Doc 8168 — Volume 1 — fifth edition — 2006, incorporating all amendments up to No 7).]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Art. 2(2)(6) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (S.I. 2019/459), regs. 1(2), **108(a)**; 2020 c. 1, **Sch. 5 para. 1(1)**
- F2** Words in Art. 2(2)(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (S.I. 2019/459), regs. 1(2), **108(b)**; 2020 c. 1, **Sch. 5 para. 1(1)**
- F3** Substituted by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 923/2012](#) of 26 September 2012 laying down the common rules of the air and operational provisions regarding services and procedures in air navigation and amending [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1035/2011](#) and [Regulations \(EC\) No 1265/2007](#), (EC) No 1794/2006, (EC) No 730/2006, (EC) No 1033/2006 and (EU) No 255/2010 (Text with EEA relevance).
- F4** Substituted by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/139](#) of 29 January 2018 amending [Regulation \(EC\) No 1033/2006](#) as regards references to ICAO provisions (Text with EEA relevance).

### Article 3

#### Interoperability and performance requirements

[<sup>F3</sup>1 The provisions specified in the Annex shall apply to the submission, acceptance and distribution of flight plans for every flight subject to this Regulation and to all changes to a key item in a flight plan in the pre-flight phase in accordance with this Regulation.]

2 [<sup>F5</sup>The Secretary of State] shall take the necessary measures to ensure that when IFPS receives a flight plan, or change thereto, it:

- a checks it for compliance with the format and data conventions;
- b checks it for completeness and, to the extent possible, for accuracy;
- c takes action, if necessary, to make it acceptable to the air traffic services; and
- d indicates acceptance of the flight plan or changes thereto to the originator.

3 [<sup>F6</sup>The Secretary of State] shall take the necessary measures to ensure that IFPS communicates to all affected ATS units the accepted flight plan and any accepted pre-flight phase changes to the key items of the flight plan and associated update messages.

4 The originator, when not being the operator or the pilot, shall ensure that the conditions of acceptance of a flight plan and any necessary changes to these conditions as notified by IFPS are made available to the operator or the pilot who has submitted the flight plan.

5 The operator shall ensure that the conditions of acceptance of a flight plan and any necessary changes thereto as notified by IFPS to the originator are incorporated into the planned flight operation and communicated to the pilot.

6 The operator shall ensure prior to operation of the flight that the content of the initial flight plan correctly reflects the operational intentions.

7 ATC units shall, during the pre-flight phase, make available through IFPS any necessary changes affecting the route or flight level key items of a flight plan that could affect the safe conduct of a flight, for flight plans and associated update messages previously received by them from IFPS.

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No other changes to or cancellation of a flight plan shall be made by an ATC unit in the pre-flight phase without coordination with the operator.

8 [F7The Secretary of State] shall take the necessary measures to ensure that IFPS communicates any necessary pre-flight phase changes referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 7 to the originator of the flight plan.

9 When no flight plan has previously been received from IFPS by ATS units for a flight entering the airspace under their responsibility, the units concerned shall make available through IFPS at least the aircraft identification, aircraft type, point of entry to their area of responsibility, time and flight level at that point, route and destination aerodrome for such flights.

#### Textual Amendments

- F3** Substituted by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 923/2012 of 26 September 2012 laying down the common rules of the air and operational provisions regarding services and procedures in air navigation and amending Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1035/2011 and Regulations \(EC\) No 1265/2007, \(EC\) No 1794/2006, \(EC\) No 730/2006, \(EC\) No 1033/2006 and \(EU\) No 255/2010 \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
- F5** Words in Art. 3(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **109**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F6** Words in Art. 3(3) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **109**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F7** Words in Art. 3(8) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **109**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

### Article 4

#### Safety requirements

[F8The CAA] shall take the necessary measures to ensure that any changes to the existing procedures for flight plans in the pre-flight phase covered by this Regulation or any introduction of new procedures are preceded by a safety assessment, including hazard identification, risk assessment and mitigation processes, conducted by the parties concerned.

#### Textual Amendments

- F8** Words in Art. 4 substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **110**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

### Article 5

#### Additional requirements

1 ATS units shall ensure that their personnel involved in flight planning are made duly aware of the relevant provisions in this Regulation and that they are adequately trained for their job functions.

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2 [F9The Secretary of State] shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the personnel operating the IFPS involved in flight planning are made duly aware of the relevant provisions of this Regulation and that they are adequately trained for their job functions.

3 ATS units shall:

- a develop and maintain operations manuals containing the necessary instructions and information to enable their operations personnel to apply the provisions of this Regulation;
- b ensure that the manuals referred to in point (a) are accessible and kept up to date and that their update and distribution are subject to appropriate quality and documentation configuration management;
- c ensure that the working methods and operating procedures comply with the relevant provisions specified in this Regulation.

4 [F10The Secretary of State] shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the centralised flight planning processing and distribution service:

- a develops and maintains operations manuals containing the necessary instructions and information to enable their operations personnel to apply the provisions of this Regulation;
- b ensures that the manuals referred to in point (a) are accessible and kept up to date and that their update and distribution are subject to appropriate quality and documentation configuration management;
- c ensures that the working methods and operating procedures comply with the relevant provisions specified in this Regulation.

F15 .....

**Textual Amendments**

- F9** Words in Art. 5(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **111(2)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F10** Words in Art. 5(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **111(2)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F11** Art. 5(5) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **111(3)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

*F12* Article 6

**Entry into force and application**

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**Textual Amendments**

- F12** Art. 6 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **112**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

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#### Textual Amendments

**F13** Words in Signature omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Air Traffic Management \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/459\)](#), regs. 1(2), **113**; 2020 c. 1, **Sch. 5 para. 1(1)**

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