RNAV Route Naming Convention
Recommendation

Overview:

At the last Aeronautical Charting Forum (ACF) a sub work group was formed to review and make recommendations to the proposed RNAV route naming convention submitted to the ACF by ATO-R. The group has conducted 2 telcons since the ACF and have reviewed ICAO, Mexico and Canadian chart standards for RNAV route classification. The group reached consensus and makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation:

Domestic RNAV routes are based on GNSS signal coverage and are divided into two altitude stratums. All RNAV routes at or above Flight Level (FL) 180 will be designated as "Q" Routes. All RNAV routes below FL 180 will be designated as "T" Routes. All RNAV routes and MEAs will be charted in blue.

Other RNAV equipped aircraft (based on DME/DME/IRU) may operate on these routes if the route has been properly evaluated for DME/DME/IRU signal coverage and have an established MEA with a suffix "D" to indicate DME/DME/IRU authorization.
T Routes should not overlap existing Victor airways and chart clutter should be considered when developing the routes. Coordination with the National Aeronautical Charting Group (NACG) Requirements and Technology Staff should be done prior to submitting the new routes for the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM).

FAA Orders should be amended to reflect the recommendations of the Sub Work Group. Attached are proposed changes for consideration by the Office of Primary Interest (OPI) for FAAO 7400.2, Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters, and the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM).

Rationale:

These route designations will facilitate a low and high altitude stratum. It will provide the basis of navigation as GNSS. It will allow addition of other RNAV capabilities as authorized without requiring changes to the majority of published charts, through the chart legends. It will also allow other RNAV capabilities in the low altitude stratum as deemed necessary in future applications.

OLD		NEW
5-3-4. Airways and Route Systems **a.** Two fixed route systems are established for air navigation purposes. They are the VOR and L/MF system, and the jet route system. To the extent possible, these route systems are aligned in an overlying manner to facilitate transition between each.		**5-3-4. Airways and Route Systems** **a. <u>Three</u>** fixed route systems are established for air navigation purposes. **They are the VOR and L/MF system, the jet route system, and the RNAV route system.** To the extent possible, these route systems are aligned in an overlying manner to facilitate transition between each.
1. thru 2.		No Change
3. Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes. **(a)** Published RNAV routes, including Q-Routes, can be flight planned for use by aircraft with RNAV capability, subject to any limitations or requirements noted on enroute charts or by NOTAM.		**3. Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes.** **(a)** Published RNAV routes, including Q-Routes **<u>and T-Routes</u>**, can be flight planned for use by aircraft with RNAV capability, subject to any limitations or requirements noted on enroute charts or by NOTAM. (**<u>1) RNAV routes are depicted in blue on aeronautical charts and are identified by the letter “Q” or "T" followed by the airway number (e.g., Q-13, T-204).</u>** **<u>(2) Q-routes are established for RNAV equipped aircraft to fly through ATC airspace from 18,000 feet MSL to FL450 inclusive. Q-routes are depicted on Enroute High Altitude Charts.</u>** **<u>(3) T-routes are established for RNAV equipped aircraft to fly on airways from 1,200 feet above the surface (or in some instances higher) up to but not including 18,000 feet MSL. These routes are depicted on Enroute Low Altitude Charts. T-routes will have an MEA with a "G" suffix and can only be flown by GNSS equipped aircraft.</u>**
(b) thru d.2.		**No Change**

OLD		NEW
Chapter 20. AIR NAVIGATION ROUTES **Section 1. GENERAL** **20-1-1 through 20-1-4** **20-1-5. ROUTE IDENTIFICATION** **a. through b**. **c.** Identify RNAV ATS routes as follows: 1. With an "R" suffix. 2. Route numbering shall follow the guidelines detailed in paragraph 20-1-5.b.1.a and b.2.		**Chapter 20. AIR NAVIGATION ROUTES** **Section 1. GENERAL** **No Change** **20-1-5. ROUTE IDENTIFICATION** **No Change** **c.** Identify RNAV ATS routes as follows: **1. Route lettering shall be as follows:** **(a) The letter "T" will prefix low altitude ATS routes below FL 180.** **(b) The letter *"Q"* will prefix high altitude ATS routes at FL 180** through FL 450. **2**. Route numbering shall follow the guidelines detailed in paragraph 20-1-5.b.2.a and b.

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