



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

JUN 19 2017

Captain Mark Bradley
Chairman
Performance-based Operations
Aviation Rulemaking Committee (PARC)
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30354-1989

Subject: PARC Controller Pilot Data Link Communication (CPDLC) Recommendations

Dear Captain Bradley:

I would like to thank you and the PARC for the two recommendations and the in-depth work provided in *FANS I/A over non-VDL Mode 2 Media Report, Recommendations for Performance-Based CPDLC in U.S. National Airspace System (NAS)*.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) agrees with the PARC recommendation to accept Controller-Pilot Data Link Communications over “plain old” Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System (POA) within U.S. en route airspace as follows:

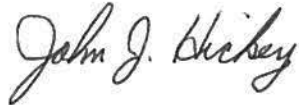
1. The Communication Service Provider (CSP) must meet or exceed the FAA Data Communications Network System (DCNS) tailored requirements as described in the *DCNS Alternate Media Description* and submit evidence to the FAA’s Air Traffic Organization’s Data Communications Program showing compliance. The ATO’s Data Communication Program will decide compliance and list accepted providers on their website.
2. The Operator is responsible for using a compliant CSP and must include the DCNS Alternate Media Description requirements in their CSP agreement. Any contracts and fees associated with the alternate media is the operator’s responsibility.
3. The Operator declares compliance when they file a flight plan indicating they are data communication capable.
4. During performance monitoring, if non-compliance is found and not corrected, the FAA may suspend use of POA for the entire NAS.
5. VDL Mode 2 is still preferred and operators should have a plan to phase out VDL Mode 0/A (POA) avionics.

The *DCNS Alternate Media Description* may be found at the following website:
https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/afs400/afs470/datacomm/media/Alternative_Compliance_VDL_0.pdf. Additional information will be contained in Advisory Circular 90-117, *Data Link Communications*.

As for the PARC's second recommendation, the FAA agrees a new Required Communication Performance specification should be developed based on the FAA DCNS requirements and will advocate within International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to include this new specification in ICAO Doc 9869, Performance-based Communications and Surveillance Manual.

If you have any questions concerning this action plan, please contact Bruce DeCleene, Manager, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, AFS-400, at (202) 267-8790.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Hickey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John J. Hickey
Acting Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety

Enclosure

Recommendation 1. The FAA accepts Future Air Navigation System (FANS) 1/A over Plain Old ACARS (POA) as a viable medium in the U.S National Airspace System (NAS) for Segment 1 en route Controller Pilot Data Link Communication (CPDLC) operations.	
Task 1: Publish AC 90-117 <i>Data Link Communications</i> guidance for FANS1/A subnetwork alternate media.	
Responsible Office(s)	Expected Completion Date
AFS-470	09/30/2017
Status: Open	
Task 2. Define the performance-based DCNS requirements.	
Responsible Office(s)	Expected Completion Date
AFS-470, Data Link Communication Program Office	Complete
Status: Closed	
Task 3: Publish A056 OpSpec/MSpec/LOA templates.	
Responsible Office(s)	Expected Completion Date
AFS-470	09/30/2017
Status: Open	
Task 4. Review Communication Service Provider (CSP) applications for POA.	
Responsible Office(s)	Expected Completion Date
Data Link Communication Program Office	TBD
Status: Open	

Recommendation 2. The FAA advocates within ICAO the development of a new Required Communication Performance (RCP) specification for the <i>Performance-based Communications (PBCS) Manual</i> (ICAO Doc 9869) and expand the PBCS framework into U.S. NAS for en route CPDLC operations.	
Task 1: The FAA advocates developing a new RCP specification based on the Data Communications Network System (DCNS) requirements into ICAO <i>PBCS Manual</i> (doc 9869).	
Responsible Office(s)	Expected Completion Date
AFS-400, AIR-132	TBD
Status: Open	