

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.673

National Policy

Effective Date:
9/7/23

Cancellation Date:
9/7/24

SUBJ: New Name for B050 West Atlantic Route System (WATRS) Area of Operation

1. Purpose. This notice announces a name change to the West Atlantic Route System (WATRS), an area of operation available for authorization in Operations Specification (OpSpec)/Management Specification (MSpec)/Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 125 Letter of Authorization (LOA) B050, Authorized Areas of En Route Operations, Limitations, and Provisions. The new name is Atlantic Ocean—West Atlantic (WAT). This affects operators under 14 CFR parts 91 subpart K (part 91K), 121, 121/135, 125 (including part 125 Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) holders), and 135. This notice also requires Safety Assurance offices to notify affected operators holding OpSpec/MSpec/part 125 LOA B050 about the changes.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards (FS) Safety Assurance offices' principal inspectors (PI) and aviation safety inspectors (ASI) assigned to operators under parts 91K, 121, 121/135, 125, 125 LODA holder, and 135. The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and Foundational Business offices.

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at <https://drs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices and DRS.

4. Background. In 2013, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) coordinated to divide the New York Oceanic Control Area (CTA) into New York—East Oceanic and New York—West Oceanic, in an effort to align CTAs with ICAO regions. In 2020, New York air traffic control (ATC) requested users to stop using the term “WATRS airspace” to reduce confusion, given that some users thought it was synonymous with the New York—West Oceanic CTA. In fact, the WATRS spans the New York—West Oceanic CTA, the San Juan CTA, and the Atlantic portion of Miami Oceanic CTA.

5. Change. FS is revising the B050 Areas of Operation as follows:

B050 Area of Operations Old Name	B050 Area of Operations New Name	Remarks
Atlantic Ocean— West Atlantic Route System (WATRS)	Atlantic Ocean— West Atlantic (WAT)	Name change only. Boundaries of area remain unchanged.

6. Affected Documents. These changes affect the following documents:

a. FAA Order 8900.1. FS has updated the following Order 8900.1 guidance:

- Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 4, Part B Operations Specifications—En Route Authorization and Limitations.
- Volume 3, Chapter 29, Section 8, Validation Test Requirements.
- Volume 4, Chapter 1, Section 2, Air Navigation Approval Requirements.
- Volume 4, Chapter 1, Section 6, General Communication Concepts, Policies, and Guidance—Overwater Operations.

b. WATRS/Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX)/Caribbean Resource Guide. FS has renamed this to the “WAT/GOMEX/Caribbean Resource Guide.”

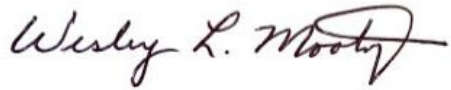
c. OpSpec/Part 125 LOA B045, Extended Overwater Operations Using a Single Long-Range Communication System. FS will revise the OpSpec/part 125 LOA B045 templates after clarifying related policy issues.

7. Web-Based Operations Safety System (WebOPSS) Impact. FS has updated the WebOPSS “Maintain Operator Data” interface for “Authorized Areas.” This is not a formal template revision. WebOPSS automatically adopts the name change on reissuances. Inspectors do not need to reselect the area of operation.

8. Action. Principal Operations Inspectors (POI) with oversight of operators holding OpSpec/MSpec/part 125 LOA B050 with “Atlantic Ocean—WATRS” authorized should inform these operators of the changes and reissue B050 to these operators within 24 months of the effective date of this notice. POIs should also advise these operators to update international operations guidance, procedures, training materials, and/or manuals to avoid use of obsolete or inaccurate names (e.g., “New York—West Oceanic CTA (formerly WATRS)”) and/or definitions of airspace and areas of operation.

Note: Concurrent with this notice, FS has issued Notice N 8900.672, New Boundaries for Areas of Magnetic Unreliability and South Polar Area of Operation, changing the B050 South Polar name and boundary. Inspectors who need to reissue B050 should cross-reference the related notice so one WebOPSS reissuance could be used to address both notices, as applicable.

9. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning this notice to the Flight Technologies and Procedures Division (AFS-400) at 202-267-8790.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley L. Mooty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'W'.

Wesley L. Mooty
Acting Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service