

**Twenty Third Meeting of the
Informal South Pacific ATS Co-ordinating Group (ISPACG/23)**

Santiago, Chile, 26-27 March 2009

Agenda Item4: Review Open Action Items

**DOCUMENT THE USE OF SATCOM VOICE
IN ICAO REGIONAL SUPPLEMENTS**

(Presented by Airways New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This paper promotes documentation of SATCOM voice procedures into ICAO 7030 Regional Supplementary Procedures.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Work underway in developing recommendations to the FAA to change its policies/practices to allow airlines MEL communication relief will ultimately lead to an increase in the use of SATCOM voice where aircrew experience difficulties in obtaining clearances and routine requests through normal HF voice.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The use of SATCOM voice in the NAT Region was limited to emergencies and non routine communications. However, several ATS providers had started analysing the possible use of SATCOM voice as a valid communications media for routine ATS communications. To support the use of SATCOM voice, NAT Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP), supported by Communications Service Providers (CSP) and volunteer airlines conducted a trial named "NAT-SATCOM voice Trial" to assess the feasibility of using SATCOM Voice for routine ATS communications. The trial was conducted between May 01 2007 and August 31 2007 involving the five main radio stations in the NAT-region: Gander, Iceland, New York, Santa Maria and Shanwick radio stations. The trials were successful in proving that the radio and crew procedures developed for the use of SATCOM during the trial were adequate
- 2.2 This paper aligns with the NATs proposal to amend the regional supps and promotes global standardization in the use of SATCOM voice.
- 2.3 There are plans to undertake a SATCOM voice trial this year in the Pacific region.



2.4 The proposed documentation to amend the regional supplements is appended to this paper.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Comment on the proposal to amend the PAC and or MIS/ASIA Regional Supplements
- b) Support the amendments progress to ICAO regional office.

**PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE
REGIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROCEDURES,
PAC and MID/ASIA REGION (Doc 7030/5)**

a) Regional Supplementary Procedures:

Doc 7030/4 – PAC / MID ASIA SUPPs

b) Proposed by:

New Zealand

c) Proposed amendment:

1. **Add** the following in Chapter 3, Section 3.4:

**“3.4 SATELLITE VOICE COMMUNICATIONS (SATCOM)
(A2 – Chapter 3; P-ATM – Chapter 15; P-OPS, Vol. 1, Vol. 2)**

- 3.4.1 Aircraft equipped with approved integrated flight deck avionics capable of SATCOM voice may use such equipment for ATS voice communications.
- 3.4.2 Pilots electing to use SATCOM voice as an alternative to HF voice communications remain responsible to perform a SELCAL check on initial contact and maintain a SELCAL watch on the assigned HF frequency.
- 3.4.3 Since oceanic traffic typically communicates through third party air-ground radio facilities, SATCOM voice communications should continue to be made to such facilities rather than ATC centres unless the urgency of the communication dictates otherwise. SATCOM voice communication initiated due to HF propagation difficulties does not constitute urgency and should be addressed to the air-ground radio facility. Dedicated SATCOM voice telephone numbers (short codes) for air-ground radio facilities and air traffic control facilities are published in national AIPs.

d) Proposer's reason for amendment:

The cost of SATCOM voice has reduced significantly and the technology has improved therefore providing a cost effective and reliable means of communications for aircraft that are equipped.

The PAC high frequencies (HF) communications network can be busy at times with Brisbane, Nadi and Auckland radio often working the same frequency bands due to their proximity with each other.

The authorisation for the use of SATCOM voice for routine ATS communications would provide States with an opportunity to ease the requirements regarding operating HF equipment and allow for potential MEL relief.

e) Proposed implementation date of the amendment:

Upon approval by Council.

f) Proposal circulated to the following States and international organizations:

The proposal is to be circulated at the ISPACG/23 meeting in Santiago.

g) Secretariat comments:

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