



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering Group
Third Meeting (TRASAS/3)**

Paris, France, 19 – 20 October 2010

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of RVSM, including interface issues

IMPLEMENTATION OF RVSM IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE ICAO EUR REGION

(Presented by ICAO EUR/NAT Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This information paper provides the up-date on the status of the States' preparations for the RVSM implementation in the Eastern part of the ICAO European Region on 17 November 2011.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Third Meeting of the EURASIA RVSM Task Force (EURASIA RVSM/3) was held in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, from 23 – 25 June 2010 on the premises of the Saint Petersburg State University of Civil Aviation of the Russian Federation followed the meetings of the two working group of the Task Forces on ATM and Monitoring.

2. Discussion

2.1. The Meeting reviewed the progress achieved by the States involved in preparation for the RVSM implementation on 17 November 2011, discussed the priorities of actions to be undertaken and agreed on the future activities.

2.2. The Summary of Discussions of the Third meeting of the EURASIA RVSM Task Force is attached hereto. Attached herewith is the main body of EURASIA RVSM TF/3 report translated into English. The Appendices containing Statute and Agreement on EURASIA RMA as well as reporting forms are not attached and shall not be translated, unless specifically requested otherwise.

3. Action by the Steering Group

3.1. The meeting is invited to note the information in this paper.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION OF THE THIRD MEETING OF EURASIA RVSM TASK FORCE – RVSM IMPLEMENTATION IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE EUROPEAN REGION

(Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 23-25 June 2010)

1. Introduction

1.1 Thanks to the kind invitation from the Russian Federation the meeting was hosted by the Saint Petersburg State University of Civil Aviation.

1.2 The meeting was chaired by Mr Igor Alexandrov, the Chairman of the Task Force. The Chairman introduced to the participants the Rector of Saint Petersburg University of Civil Aviation, Mr Youri Smurov whom he also congratulated on the 55th anniversary of the training institution. Mr Smurov greeted the meeting and informed the participants that training of the Russian Federation instructors for flights in the RVSM environment was currently conducted at the University, with this he wished the participants a successful meeting.

1.3 Mr Victor Kourenkov, Regional expert, ICAO EUR/NAT was the Secretary of the meeting supported by Ms Leyla Suleymanova, also from the ICAO EUR/NAT, who also provided language assistance to the meeting. The meeting was attended by 34 participants from eleven (11) States and three (3) international organizations. Full list of participants/contacts is in **Appendix B**.

1.4 List of documents reviewed by the meeting is enclosed in **Appendix A** to this Summary. The following agenda was adopted.

- Item 1:** Status reports from the States participating in the EURASIA RVSM project.
- Item 2:** Outcome and report of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Monitoring working groups.
- Item 3:** Progress on the Master Plan.
- Item 4:** Information from the neighbouring States.
- Item 5:** Familiarization with the Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) prepared by the Russian Federation.
- Item 6:** Revision and approval of Draft agreement on establishment of EURASIA Regional Monitoring Agency (EURASIA RMA).
- Item 7:** Preparation and revision of draft summary of discussions.
- Item 8:** Any other business.

2. Progress report and official confirmation on national RVSM implementation plans of EURASIA RVSM States (timelines, flight level system)

AFGHANISTAN

2.1 Mr Jonathan Townsend informed the meeting that a week earlier, the Afghanistan Deputy Minister of Transportation and Civil Aviation (MoTCA) signed a letter expressing the country's commitment to implementing RVSM by Nov 2011. This letter provided a basis upon which a request was drafted and forwarded to the airspace control authority, delegated to the coalition forces by Afghanistan, to support and endorse RVSM implementation. In addition, the air traffic control division of the United States Air Forces Central Command (USAFCENT) has asked the airspace control authority to, on behalf of MoTCA, formally request ICAO include Afghanistan in the upcoming region-wide safety study for RVSM implementation. Finally, the USAFCENT air traffic control division is partnering with a government contract agency to develop an RVSM implementation plan for Afghanistan, which will include air traffic control training, possible airspace restructuring, etc. Further coordination shall be carried out with the relevant regional office of ICAO according to the established procedure.

KAZAKHSTAN

2.2 The meeting was informed that National coordinator for RVSM implementation programme was appointed, in the person of Mr Talgat Lastayev, Deputy Chairman of the Civil Aviation Committee, a working group was created, comprising specialists from the Civil Aviation Committee, Air Navigation Service Provider KAZAERONAVIGATSIYA, Ministry of Defence and Civil Aviation Academy.

2.3 At this point 280 specialist and 16 instructors were trained, additional 14 instructors are scheduled until end 2010.

2.4 Relevant amendments to the regulatory documents and procedures were proposed and being currently coordinated with all concerned. Upgrade, including software part, of the following area centres is ahead: Almaty, Aktyubinsk, Astana and Shymkent. Coordination with neighbouring States on the update of letters of agreement (LoAs) is underway.

KYRGYZSTAN

2.5 The meeting was informed that National plans for safe transition toward RVSM were approved for both the regulator and ANSP. An expert committee was created within CAA, responsible for amendments to relevant national regulations.

2.6 Eight instructors were trained and are developing training programme for the whole of ATC staff. A full-scale training programme for the ANSP staff is starting as of autumn 2010. Necessary upgrades to the ATC equipment and training systems are discussed with the ATC equipment manufacturers.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

2.7 National coordinator of RVSM implementation programme, Mr A. Vedernikov informed the meeting about the progress within the Russian Federation. Since the previous meeting of the Task Force in December 2009 the following actions were completed by the Russian Federation :

- 15 February 2010, after a preliminary revision and agreement with the EURASIA RVSM States, a proposal for amendment to the *Regional Supplementary Procedures* (SUPPS) (Doc 7030) was initiated and transmitted to the ICAO EUR/NAT Office;
- 29 March 2010 – Government Transport and Communications Commission of the Russian Federation approved the National RVSM implementation programme;

- 15 June 2010 – National RVSM Implementation working group was created following a directive of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation (further *RF RVSM working group*);
- Aeronautical information circular AIC 03/10 “Implementation to the ICAO flight level system and reduced vertical separation minimum (RVSM) from FL290 to FL410 within the Russian Federation airspace as of 17 November 2011” shall become effective on 29.07.2010 AIRAC date;
- A dedicated web-page “RVSM implementation in the Russian Federation” was created within the portal of the Federal Air Transport Agency (FATA) and all information is kept up-to-date;
- Training of air traffic controllers (ATCOs) is conducted in Saint Petersburg Civil Aviation University following a specialized professional training programme “Instructors training for operations in RVSM environment”. At this point 97 instructors completed training; by September 2010 additional 87 shall graduate. Upon completion of the programme the certified instructors shall start ATCOs training in Russian Federation area centres;
- A list of ACCs that require modernization to meet RVSM requirements is finalized. Out of total 71 ACCs only 33 need to be upgraded. Magadan and St Petersburg ACCs were upgraded, work has started in other 13 ACCs and is to be accomplished by the end of year 2010;
- Proposals for relevant amendments to the documentation, currently regulating evaluation of fleet and AC operators readiness to meet RVSM requirements are developed;
- Out of 800 AC, commercially operated within Russian Federation upper airspace, 630 are RVSM-approved;
- Steps toward the establishment of a regional monitoring agency are taken. Currently legal and financial provisions frameworks are being discussed.

TAJIKISTAN

2.8 For a number of reasons, Tajikistan members of the Task Force did not participate in the meeting. Mr Bakhtiyor Sheraliev of the ANSP “TAJIK AERONAVIGATSIYA” participated as an observer. He informed the participants that the National RVSM implementation group is working in close cooperation and with full support of the civil aviation authority and Ministry of Defence. Tajikistan confirms the plan to implement RVSM following the Task Force decision, based on the ICAO Table and within the established timeframe, i.e. 17.11.2011.

UZBEKISTAN

2.9 The meeting was informed that progress in Uzbekistan follows the timelines established in the national implementation plan. The Uzbekistan national plan for safe transition to RVSM is ready and final revision is now in process. Draft AIC is finalized in full compliance with the requirements of Annex 2 Table 3A.

2.10 The Uzbekistan representative has specifically mentioned that in the current conditions constantly growing air traffic flow and to provide for adequate coordination with neighbouring ACCs, there exists an urgent need for resolution of communication (COM) issues between Termez ACC (Uzbekistan) and Kabul ACC (Afghanistan).

2.11 The staff training continues smoothly. Schedule for ATCOs training is finalized, modernization and upgrade of ACCs equipment is also in progress.

Conclusions and proposals based on the States' reports

2.12 The TF Chairman has thanked all speakers for the progress, specifically mentioning Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan that keep both the ICAO Secretariat and the TF Chairman informed at all times, not limiting themselves to the regular meetings.

2.13 Strong recommendation was addressed to the representative from Afghanistan, reiterating the importance of their close cooperation with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on all matters related to RVSM implementation.

2.14 All participants were requested to provide feed-back on any difficulties they experience in the preparation to RVSM implementation, if any, inter alia in matters or coordination with the relevant authorities involved in state AC operations.

2.15 The Chairman also requested that participants provide their State progress reports via email in a form of a working paper to the ICAO Secretariat prior to the meetings.

3. Outcome and report of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Monitoring working groups

Report of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) working group

3.1 Mr Vladimir Karpov was the Rapporteur of the working group meeting (EURASIA RVSM ATM WG/3). The ATM WG extended its gratitude to all who managed to partake in its work. ATM WG/3 was attended by 37 delegates from 11 States (Afghanistan, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC) and two top Russian Federation AC operators (Transaero and Sibir). In general the WG considers participation of airspace users to its work beneficial. The WG also expressed regrets about the absence of participants from China, Mongolia and Turkmenistan.

Agenda item 1: Preparation/revision of draft Aeronautical Information Circulars (AIC) for the EURASIA RVSM project States

3.2 The participants were presented with the Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) 03/10 issued by the Russian Federation that would become applicable on 29.07.10 AIRAC date. During the revision a number of points were raised, inter alia matter of flight levels allocation in upper and lower airspace. Further in the working session of the Task Force proper Mr A. Lipin of the Saint Petersburg University of Civil Aviation made a presentation that clarified main points of concern. After final approval of all related aspects, publication of AICs in the States concerned shall follow their national RVSM implementation plans.

Agenda item 2: Amendments to the formal Letters of Agreement (LoAs) to provide for RVSM working procedures

3.3 The participants agreed that all amendments to the LoAs between adjacent ACCs on national level and between neighbouring States continued following the earlier discussed procedure.

3.4 Experts from the Russian Federation have provided a log of ATC centres and States with the total number of LoAs that had to be amended by this State. The meeting participants agreed that such logs were useful to their respective States as well..

3.5 Keeping in mind short timeline of EURASIA RVSM project as well as the importance of this particular issue it was recommended that participating States complete revision of the LoAs by September 2011. The Rapporteur strongly suggested that participating States commence revision of working procedures and LoAs urgently rather than awaiting the RVSM implementation date.

Agenda item 3: ATM procedures for contingency situations (COM failure, turbulence etc.)

3.6 Representatives of States that have already implemented RVSM informed the meeting that since the implementation and to date number of contingency situations registered in their States was insignificant. Contingency procedures in those States were included into the specialized pre-RVSM implementation training programme. It was also recommended that detailed description of contingency situations (f.e.g. turbulence, COM failure etc.) be included into the ATCOs working procedures and simulator training. Such simulator training must also take into account other specificities, *inter alia* State's individual geographical and geodetic features.

3.7 Representatives from Finland informed the meeting that in their pre-RVSM implementation training they used methodical packages developed by Eurocontrol, which could be particularly helpful also to the EURASIA RVSM States.

3.8 Since none of EURASIA RVSM States are member of Eurocontrol, the ATM WG requested that ICAO EUR/NAT Office look into possibility of obtaining this material from Eurocontrol for further use by EURASIA RVSM States.

Agenda item 4: Coordination procedures between adjacent ATM centres in RVSM environment

3.9 All participants agreed that, firstly, such coordination procedures must be included into the ATCOs working procedures. And, secondly, these coordination procedures must also be written into the LoAs between the ACCs concerned.

Agenda item 5: Establishment of reporting points compulsory for transfer of ATC and application of procedures in case of COM failure in RVSM airspace

3.10 The delegates from the Russian Federation have presented their State's table of reporting points and their coordinated dated 1 June 2010. Other EURASIA RVSM States also have similar data tables. All participants stated that presently existing reporting points are sufficient in number given the current traffic load. In the future, in case of significant traffic growth, this number could be reviewed to accommodate also unidirectional and bidirectional traffic.

Agenda item 6: Any other business

3.11 Next meeting of the ATM WG was scheduled for September-October 2010.

3.12 Since agenda of the next meeting would also comprise eastern-European route network coordination and, benefiting from the presence of RDGE Chairman, Mr Sergej Smirnov (Lithuania) and from the fact that the next meeting of RDGE Group was taking place on 20-24 September 2010, all participants deemed appropriate the closest possible coordination of route network related discussions with the RDGE Group.

3.13 At a number of occasions during the ATM WG meeting it was suggested that coordination and information exchange on RVSM related matters be carried out between adjacent ACCs and neighbouring States, specifically with those that had already implemented RVSM. It was therefore deemed necessary to also hold additional bilateral meetings with representatives of these ACCs and States.

Report of the Monitoring Group

3.14 The Rapporteur, Mr E. Sherbakov informed the Monitoring Group that formal agreement to establish the EURASIA Regional Monitoring Agency was still not received from all States concerned. Meanwhile, none of the States had expressed their formal disagreement either. Based on the absence of formal objections, the EURASIA RVSM TF took a decision to proceed with the establishment of the EURASIA Regional Monitoring Agency (EURASIA RMA) for all States partaking in the EURASIA RVSM project.

3.15 The Monitoring Group meeting reviewed the following items:

- Outcome of the seminar held in the European Regional Monitoring Agency (EUR RMA) in Brussels on 12-16 April 2010;
- Completion of monitoring-related tasks outlined in the Master-plan:
 - a) Organizational structure of the monitoring agency;
 - b) Development of a draft agreement on establishment of the Regional Monitoring Agency;
 - c) Development of a statute of the Regional Monitoring Agency;
 - d) Methods and organization of data collection/reporting;
- Minimum Monitoring Requirements (MMR) for EURASIA RVSM Airspace;
- Next meeting of the working group.

Outcome of the seminar held in the European Regional Monitoring Agency (EUR RMA) in Brussels on 12-16 April 2010

3.16 The Rapporteur informed the participants about the outcome of the seminar held in Brussels in April 2010. The Summary and agreements reached were also discussed, noted and approved.

Completion of monitoring-related tasks outlined in the Master-plan

Organizational structure of the monitoring agency

3.17 The Rapporteur informed the meeting that a formal decision to establish the Regional Monitoring Agency (EURASIA RMA) in the State Research Institute “Aeronavigatsiya” in Moscow, Russian Federation was taken. The EURASIA RMA project team is already operational.

Development of a draft agreement on establishment and statute of the Regional Monitoring Agency

3.18 Draft agreement (**Appendix D**) and statute of the future EURASIA RMA (**Appendix C**) were reviewed. The Task Force approved main statements and principles of these documents and decided to transmit them to the relevant authorities for their revision/approval and further signature by the EURASIA RVSM States’ Authorities.

3.19 Various means of financing of future EURASIA RMA were reviewed. As a result, the Task Force agreed to the proposal of the Russian Federation to finance the RMA through increasing the air navigation charges for overflight in the Russian airspace.

Methods and organization of data collection/reporting

3.20 The Working Group reviewed the data collection forms proposed, i.e.:

- Data on RVSM AC approvals for each individual State;
- Traffic samples (factual flight statistics data);
- Monthly reports on large height deviations (major deviations from the assigned altitude).

3.21 All the proposed forms are fully compliant with the requirements of ICAO and EUR RMA. The Task Force decided to approve the data collection forms, therefore the following timelines were fixed:

- 3.21.1 **Before 10.07.2010** all EURASIA RVSM States provide the EURASIA RMA Project team with the contact details for further creation of AC RVSM approvals database (Form F1 in **Appendix E**);

- 3.21.2 **Before 10.07.2010** all EURASIA RVSM States provide the EURASIA RMA Project team contact details for traffic samples data collection required for pre-RVSM implementation safety assessment (Form F3 in **Appendix E**);
- 3.21.3 **Before 30.07.2010** all EURASIA RVSM States provide the EURASIA RMA Project team data on their AC fleet RVSM approvals (Form F2 in **Appendix E** and electronic data sheet RMA Eurasia Form F2.xlsx in **Appendix F**);
- 3.21.4 All EURASIA RVSM States provide, **on a daily basis and throughout the month of August 2010**, to the EURASIA RMA Project team their respective traffic samples (Form F4 in **Appendix G** and electronic data-sheet RMA Eurasia TSD_template.xlsx. in **Appendix H**);
- 3.21.5 **Before 15.07.2010** all EURASIA RVSM States inform about their readiness to provide information required in para. 3.21.4 within the stated timeline via email to the following addresses:
- RMA_Eurasia@atminst.ru;**
vkourenkov@paris.icao.int;
lsuleymanova@paris.icao.int;
- 3.21.6 **Before 30.07.2010** all EURASIA RVSM States organize collection and continuous submission of data on large height deviation to the EURASIA RMA Project team (Form F5 in **Appendix I**);
- 3.21.7 **Before 30.07.2010** all EURASIA RVSM States organize collection and submission of monthly reports on large height deviations to the EURASIA RMA Project team (Form F6 in **Appendix I**);
- 3.21.8 All EURASIA RVSM States **continuously** transmit information on incidents related to the ATC deficiencies to the EURASIA RMA.

3.22 In order to fulfil the responsibilities of the Russian Federation outlined in the Master-plan (para. 5.4), the Task Force mandated the RF RVSM implementation working group to assess the matter of continuous transmission of traffic samples to the RMA Project team, which shall be used to define the parameters for safety assessment model.

3.23 The Task Force endorsed the proposal that definition of parameters of safety risk calculation model during pre-implementation safety assessment be based on the traffic samples from Moscow ACC area.

Minimum Monitoring Requirements (MMR) for EURASIA RVSM Airspace

3.24 The representatives of EUR RMA informed the meeting about the current revision of the minimum monitoring requirements (MMR). Draft updated version of MMRs was handed over to the Rapporteur for information. The working group agreed to come back to this issue after the new MMRs' approval by the upcoming meeting of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG) in November 2011.

Next meeting of the working group

3.25 The Task Force was informed that the next meeting of the Monitoring Working Group was scheduled to be held on 26-28 October 2010 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

4. Progress on the Master-plan

4.1 The Task Force reviewed progress on the actions outlined by the Master-plan and, notwithstanding a slight delay on few points, considered overall advancement satisfactory.

5. Information from neighbouring States

5.1 The Chairman thanked all representatives from the neighbouring States that participated both in the working groups' sessions and the Task Force proper. In general active exchange of information was noted throughout the whole working session, in particular during the ATM working group meeting. Information on issues of pre-RVSM personnel training, amendments to the regulatory documentation was provided by these States. The delegates also stressed the importance of a step-by-step approach and close coordination with all concerned, they have also assured the EURASIA RVSM colleagues of their readiness to provide all necessary consultations.

6. Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) of the Russian Federation

6.1 The participants were presented with the Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) 03/10 issued by the Russian Federation that would become applicable on 29.07.10 AIRAC date. This information was discussed in detail during the ATM Working Group meeting (para.3.2 refers)

7. Revision of the finalized agreement on establishment and statute of the Regional Monitoring Agency

7.1 The matter was discussed in great detail during the Monitoring Group meeting. The outcome was endorsed by the Task Force (para.3.18 and **Appendix D** refers)

8. Other business

Next meeting

8.1 The Task Force shall gather for its forth meeting on 13-17 December 2010 in the ICAO Regional Office, Europe and North Atlantic following the same arrangements as customary, i.e. two days for both working groups in parallel, followed by the Task Force plenary session. It was also suggested that members from Kazakhstan assess the possibility to host the fifth Task Force meeting in March-April 2011.

8.2 At the closing session the Chairman, Mr Igor Alexandrov, thanked everyone for their active participation in the preparation and during the meetings and expressed his hope that, notwithstanding current financial limitations, the participants shall be able to continuously contribute to the project fulfilling their States' responsibilities regarding the RVSM implementation in the Eastern part of the ICAO European Region.

8.3 Special words of gratitude from all participants were addressed to the Saint Petersburg University of Civil Aviation and Regional affiliate of the State ATM Corporation "Aeronavigation North-West" of the Russian Federation for the organization of the meetings.



European and North
Atlantic Office

APPENDIX A – LIST OF DOCUMENTS

(para. 1.3 refers)

EURASIA RVSM TF/3

WP #	Agenda item	Title	Presented by
WP01	0	Agenda	Secretariat
WP02	2	ATM WG report	Secretariat
WP03	2	RMA WG report	Secretariat
WP04	3	Master plan	Secretariat
WP05	5	Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) 03/10	Russian Federation
WP06	6	Draft agreement and statute of establishment of the regional agency EURASIA RMA	Russian Federation
IP01		Working schedule	Russian Federation
IP02	1	National RVSM Implementation Plan of Republic of Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan

APPENDIX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*(para. 1.3 refers)***AFGHANISTAN**

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Mr Kari KOISTINEN**KAZAKHSTAN**Mr Alexandr GERASIMOV
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Mr Igor KULIK

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Mr Dmitry STEPANKO

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