

cleared to a position within the area or areas selected by prior agreement with the aerodrome authority. The taxi clearance shall specify the taxi route to be followed to the parking position. This route shall be selected with a view to minimizing any security risks to the public, other aircraft and installations at the aerodrome.

Note.— See Annex 14, Volume I, Chapter 3.

15.1.4 Emergency descent

15.1.4.1 Upon receipt of advice that an aircraft is making an emergency descent through other traffic, all possible action shall be taken immediately to safeguard all aircraft concerned. When deemed necessary, air traffic control units shall immediately broadcast by means of the appropriate radio aids, or if not possible, request the appropriate communications stations immediately to broadcast an emergency message.

15.1.4.2 ACTION BY THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND

It is expected that aircraft receiving such a broadcast will clear the specified areas and stand by on the appropriate radio frequency for further clearances from the air traffic control unit.

15.1.4.3 SUBSEQUENT ACTION BY THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL UNIT

Immediately after such an emergency broadcast has been made the ACC, the approach control unit, or the aerodrome control tower concerned shall forward further clearances to all aircraft involved as to additional procedures to be followed during and subsequent to the emergency descent. The ATS unit concerned shall additionally inform any other ATS units and control sectors which may be affected.

15.2 SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR IN-FLIGHT CONTINGENCIES IN OCEANIC AIRSPACE

15.2.1 Introduction

15.2.1.1 Although all possible contingencies cannot be covered, the procedures in 15.2.2 and 15.2.3 provide for the more frequent cases such as:

- a) inability to maintain assigned flight level due to meteorological conditions, aircraft performance or pressurization failure;
- b) en route diversion across the prevailing traffic flow; and
- c) loss of, or significant reduction in, the required navigation capability when operating in an airspace where the navigation performance accuracy is a prerequisite to the safe conduct of flight operations.

15.2.1.2 With regard to 15.2.1.1 a) and b), the procedures are applicable primarily when rapid descent and/or turn-back or diversion is required. The pilot's judgement shall determine the sequence of actions to be taken, having regard to the prevailing circumstances. Air traffic control shall render all possible assistance.

15.2.2 General procedures

15.2.2.1 If an aircraft is unable to continue the flight in accordance with its ATC clearance, and/or an aircraft is unable to maintain the navigation performance accuracy specified for the airspace, a revised clearance shall be obtained, whenever possible, prior to initiating any action.

15.2.2.2 The radiotelephony distress signal (MAYDAY) or urgency signal (PAN PAN) preferably spoken three times shall be used as appropriate. Subsequent ATC action with respect to that aircraft shall be based on the intentions of the pilot and the overall air traffic situation.

15.2.2.3 If prior clearance cannot be obtained, an ATC clearance shall be obtained at the earliest possible time and, until a revised clearance is received, the pilot shall:

- a) leave the assigned route or track by initially turning 90 degrees to the right or to the left. When possible, the direction of the turn should be determined by the position of the aircraft relative to any organized route or track system. Other factors which may affect the direction of the turn are:
 - 1) the direction to an alternate airport, terrain clearance;
 - 2) any lateral offset being flown; and
 - 3) the flight levels allocated on adjacent routes or tracks;

b) following the turn, the pilot should:

- 1) if unable to maintain the assigned flight level, initially minimize the rate of descent to the extent that is operationally feasible;
- 2) take account of other aircraft being laterally offset from its track;
- 3) acquire and maintain in either direction a track laterally separated by 28 km (15 NM) from the assigned route; and
- 4) once established on the offset track, climb or descend to select a flight level which differs from those normally used by 150 m (500 ft);

c) establish communications with and alert nearby aircraft by broadcasting, at suitable intervals: aircraft identification, flight level, position (including the ATS route designator or the track code, as appropriate) and intentions on the frequency in use and on 121.5 MHz (or, as a back-up, on the inter-pilot air-to-air frequency 123.45 MHz);

d) maintain a watch for conflicting traffic both visually and by reference to ACAS (if equipped);

e) turn on all aircraft exterior lights (commensurate with appropriate operating limitations);

f) keep the SSR transponder on at all times; and

g) take action as necessary to ensure the safety of the aircraft.

15.2.2.3.1 When leaving the assigned track to acquire and maintain the track laterally separated by 28 km (15 NM), the flight crew, should, where practicable, avoid bank angles that would result in overshooting the track to be acquired, particularly in airspace where a 55.5 km (30 NM) lateral separation minimum is applied.

15.2.2.4 EXTENDED RANGE OPERATIONS BY AEROPLANES WITH TWO-TURBINE POWER-UNITS (ETOPS)

If the contingency procedures are employed by a twin-engine aircraft as a result of an engine shutdown or failure of an ETOPS critical system, the pilot should advise ATC as soon as practicable of the situation, reminding ATC of the type of aircraft involved, and request expeditious handling.

15.2.3 Weather deviation procedures

15.2.3.1 GENERAL

Note.— The following procedures are intended for deviations around adverse meteorological conditions.

15.2.3.1.1 When the pilot initiates communications with ATC, a rapid response may be obtained by stating “WEATHER DEVIATION REQUIRED” to indicate that priority is desired on the frequency and for ATC response. When necessary, the pilot should initiate the communications using the urgency call “PAN PAN” (preferably spoken three times).

15.2.3.1.2 The pilot shall inform ATC when weather deviation is no longer required, or when a weather deviation has been completed and the aircraft has returned to its cleared route.

15.2.3.2 ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN WHEN CONTROLLER-PILOT COMMUNICATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED

15.2.3.2.1 The pilot should notify ATC and request clearance to deviate from track, advising, when possible, the extent of the deviation expected.

15.2.3.2.2 ATC should take one of the following actions:

- a) when appropriate separation can be applied, issue clearance to deviate from track; or
- b) if there is conflicting traffic and ATC is unable to establish appropriate separation, ATC shall:
 - 1) advise the pilot of inability to issue clearance for the requested deviation;
 - 2) advise the pilot of conflicting traffic; and
 - 3) request the pilot’s intentions.

15.2.3.2.3 The pilot should take the following actions:

- a) comply with the ATC clearance issued; or
- b) advise ATC of intentions and execute the procedures detailed in 15.2.3.3.

15.2.3.3 ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IF A REVISED ATC CLEARANCE CANNOT BE OBTAINED

Note.— The provisions of this section apply to situations where a pilot needs to exercise the authority of a pilot-in-command under the provisions of Annex 2, 2.3.1.

If the aircraft is required to deviate from track to avoid adverse meteorological conditions and prior clearance cannot be obtained, an ATC clearance shall be obtained at the earliest possible time. Until an ATC clearance is received, the pilot shall take the following actions:

- a) if possible, deviate away from an organized track or route system;
- b) establish communications with and alert nearby aircraft by broadcasting, at suitable intervals: aircraft identification, flight level, position (including ATS route designator or the track code) and intentions, on the frequency in use and on 121.5 MHz (or, as a back-up, on the inter-pilot air-to-air frequency 123.45 MHz);
- c) watch for conflicting traffic both visually and by reference to ACAS (if equipped);

Note.— If, as a result of actions taken under the provisions of 15.2.3.3.1 b) and c), the pilot determines that there is another aircraft at or near the same flight level with which a conflict may occur, then the pilot is expected to adjust the path of the aircraft, as necessary, to avoid conflict.

- d) turn on all aircraft exterior lights (commensurate with appropriate operating limitations);
- e) for deviations of less than 19 km (10 NM) remain at a level assigned by ATC;
- f) for deviations greater than 19 km (10 NM), when the aircraft is approximately 19 km (10 NM) from track, initiate a level change in accordance with Table 1;

Table 1

Route centre line track	Deviations > 19 km (10 NM)	Level change
EAST 000° – 179° magnetic	LEFT RIGHT	DESCEND 90 m (300 ft) CLIMB 90 m (300 ft)
WEST 180° – 359° magnetic	LEFT RIGHT	CLIMB 90 m (300 ft) DESCEND 90 m (300 ft)

- g) when returning to track, be at its assigned flight level when the aircraft is within approximately 19 km (10 NM) of the centre line; and
- h) if contact was not established prior to deviating, continue to attempt to contact ATC to obtain a

clearance. If contact was established, continue to keep ATC advised of intentions and obtain essential traffic information.

15.2.4 Procedures for strategic lateral offsets in oceanic and remote continental airspace

Note 1.— Annex 2, 3.6.2.1.1 requires authorization for the application of strategic lateral offsets from the appropriate ATS authority responsible for the airspace concerned.

Note 2.— The following incorporates lateral offset procedures for both the mitigation of the increasing lateral overlap probability due to increased navigation accuracy, and wake turbulence encounters.

Note 3.— The use of highly accurate navigation systems (such as the global navigation satellite system (GNSS)) by an increasing proportion of the aircraft population has had the effect of reducing the magnitude of lateral deviations from the route centre line and, consequently, increasing the probability of a collision, should a loss of vertical separation between aircraft on the same route occur.

15.2.4.1 The following shall be taken into account by the appropriate ATS authority when authorizing the use of strategic lateral offsets in a particular airspace:

- a) strategic lateral offsets shall only be authorized in en route oceanic or remote continental airspace. Where part of the airspace in question is within radar coverage, transiting aircraft should normally be allowed to initiate or continue offset tracking;
- b) strategic lateral offsets may be authorized for the following types of routes (including where routes or route systems intersect):
 - 1) uni-directional and bi-directional routes; and
 - 2) parallel route systems where the spacing between route centre lines is not less than 55.5 km (30 NM);
- c) in some instances it may be necessary to impose restrictions on the use of strategic lateral offsets, e.g. where their application may be inappropriate for reasons related to obstacle clearance;
- d) strategic lateral offset procedures should be implemented on a regional basis after coordination between all States involved;

- e) the routes or airspace where application of strategic lateral offsets is authorized, and the procedures to be followed by pilots, shall be promulgated in aeronautical information publications (AIPs); and
- f) air traffic controllers shall be made aware of the airspace within which strategic lateral offsets are authorized.

15.2.4.1.1 The decision to apply a strategic lateral offset shall be the responsibility of the flight crew. The flight crew shall only apply strategic lateral offsets in airspace where such offsets have been authorized by the appropriate ATS authority and when the aircraft is equipped with automatic offset tracking capability.

15.2.4.1.2 The strategic lateral offset shall be established at a distance of 1.85 km (1 NM) or 3.7 km (2 NM) to the right of the centre line relative to the direction of flight.

Note 1.— Pilots may contact other aircraft on the inter-pilot air-to-air frequency 123.45 MHz to coordinate offsets.

Note 2.— The strategic lateral offset procedure has been designed to include offsets to mitigate the effects of wake turbulence of preceding aircraft. If wake turbulence needs to be avoided, one of the three available options (centre line, 1.85 km (1 NM) or 3.7 km (2 NM) right offset) may be used.

Note 3.— Pilots are not required to inform ATC that a strategic lateral offset is being applied.

15.3 AIR-GROUND COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE

Note 1.— Radar procedures to be applied in relation to an aircraft experiencing air-ground communication failure are contained in Chapter 8, Section 8.8.3.

Note 2.— An aircraft equipped with an SSR transponder is expected to operate the transponder on Mode A Code 7600 to indicate that it has experienced air-ground communication failure.

Note 3.— See also Chapter 6, 6.3.2.4 concerning departure clearances containing no geographical or time limit for an initial level and procedures to be applied in relation to an aircraft experiencing air-ground communication failure under such circumstances.

Note 4. — See also Chapter 5, 5.4.2.6.3.2, for additional requirements applying to communication failure during the

application of the 50 NM longitudinal RNAV/RNP 10 separation minimum.

15.3.1 Action by air traffic control units when unable to maintain two-way communication with an aircraft operating in a control area or control zone shall be as outlined in the paragraphs which follow.

15.3.2 As soon as it is known that two-way communication has failed, action shall be taken to ascertain whether the aircraft is able to receive transmissions from the air traffic control unit by requesting it to execute a specified manoeuvre which can be observed by radar or to transmit, if possible, a specified signal in order to indicate acknowledgement.

15.3.3 If the aircraft fails to indicate that it is able to receive and acknowledge transmissions, separation shall be maintained between the aircraft having the communication failure and other aircraft, based on the assumption that the aircraft will:

- a) if in visual meteorological conditions:
 - 1) continue to fly in visual meteorological conditions;
 - 2) land at the nearest suitable aerodrome; and
 - 3) report its arrival by the most expeditious means to the appropriate air traffic control unit; or
- b) if in instrument meteorological conditions or when conditions are such that it does not appear likely that the pilot will complete the flight in accordance with a):
 - 1) unless otherwise prescribed on the basis of a regional air navigation agreement, in airspace where radar is not used in the provision of air traffic control, maintain the last assigned speed and level, or minimum flight altitude if higher, for a period of 20 minutes following the aircraft's failure to report its position over a compulsory reporting point and thereafter adjust level and speed in accordance with the filed flight plan; or,
 - 2) in airspace where radar is used in the provision of air traffic control, maintain the last assigned speed and level, or minimum flight altitude if higher, for a period of 7 minutes following:
 - i) the time the last assigned level or minimum flight altitude is reached; or
 - ii) the time the transponder is set to Code 7600; or

- iii) the aircraft's failure to report its position over a compulsory reporting point;

whichever is later and thereafter adjust level and speed in accordance with the filed flight plan;

- 3) when being radar vectored or having been directed by ATC to proceed offset using RNAV without a specified limit, proceed in the most direct manner possible to rejoin the current flight plan route no later than the next significant point, taking into consideration the applicable minimum flight altitude;
- 4) proceed according to the current flight plan route to the appropriate designated navigation aid or fix serving the destination aerodrome and, when required to ensure compliance with 5) below, hold over this aid or fix until commencement of descent;
- 5) commence descent from the navigation aid or fix specified in 4) at, or as close as possible to, the expected approach time last received and acknowledged; or, if no expected approach time has been received and acknowledged, at, or as close as possible to, the estimated time of arrival resulting from the current flight plan;
- 6) complete a normal instrument approach procedure as specified for the designated navigation aid or fix; and
- 7) land, if possible, within 30 minutes after the estimated time of arrival specified in 5) or the last acknowledged expected approach time, whichever is later.

Note 1.— Provisions related to minimum levels are contained in Annex 2, 5.1.2.

Note 2.— As evidenced by the meteorological conditions prescribed therein, 15.3.3 a) relates to all controlled flights, whereas 15.3.3 b) relates only to IFR flights.

15.3.4 Action taken to ensure suitable separation shall cease to be based on the assumption stated in 15.3.3 when:

- a) it is determined that the aircraft is following a procedure differing from that in 15.3.3; or
- b) through the use of electronic or other aids, air traffic control units determine that action differing from that required by 15.3.3 may be taken without impairing safety; or

- c) positive information is received that the aircraft has landed.

15.3.5 As soon as it is known that two-way communication has failed, appropriate information describing the action taken by the air traffic control unit, or instructions justified by any emergency situation, shall be transmitted blind for the attention of the aircraft concerned, on the frequencies available on which the aircraft is believed to be listening, including the voice frequencies of available radio navigation or approach aids. Information shall also be given concerning:

- a) meteorological conditions favourable to a cloud-breaking procedure in areas where congested traffic may be avoided; and
- b) meteorological conditions at suitable aerodromes.

15.3.6 Pertinent information shall be given to other aircraft in the vicinity of the presumed position of the aircraft experiencing the failure.

15.3.7 As soon as it is known that an aircraft which is operating in its area of responsibility is experiencing an apparent radiocommunication failure, an air traffic services unit shall forward information concerning the radiocommunication failure to all air traffic services units concerned along the route of flight. The ACC in whose area the destination aerodrome is located shall take steps to obtain information on the alternate aerodrome(s) and other relevant information specified in the filed flight plan, if such information is not available.

15.3.8 If circumstances indicate that a controlled flight experiencing a communication failure might proceed to (one of) the alternate aerodrome(s) specified in the filed flight plan, the air traffic control unit(s) serving the alternate aerodrome(s) and any other air traffic control units that might be affected by a possible diversion shall be informed of the circumstances of the failure and requested to attempt to establish communication with the aircraft at a time when the aircraft could possibly be within communication range. This shall apply particularly when, by agreement with the operator or a designated representative, a clearance has been transmitted blind to the aircraft concerned to proceed to an alternate aerodrome, or when meteorological conditions at the aerodrome of intended landing are such that a diversion to an alternate is considered likely.

15.3.9 When an air traffic control unit receives information that an aircraft, after experiencing a communication failure has re-established communication or has landed, that unit shall inform the air traffic services unit in whose area the aircraft was operating at the time the failure occurred, and

other air traffic services units concerned along the route of flight, giving necessary information for the continuation of control if the aircraft is continuing in flight.

15.3.10 If the aircraft has not reported within thirty minutes after:

- a) the estimated time of arrival furnished by the pilot;
- b) the estimated time of arrival calculated by the ACC; or
- c) the last acknowledged expected approach time,

whichever is latest, pertinent information concerning the aircraft shall be forwarded to aircraft operators, or their designated representatives, and pilots-in-command of any aircraft concerned and normal control resumed if they so desire. It is the responsibility of the aircraft operators, or their designated representatives, and pilots-in-command of aircraft to determine whether they will resume normal operations or take other action.

15.4 ASSISTANCE TO VFR FLIGHTS

15.4.1 Strayed VFR flights and VFR flights encountering adverse meteorological conditions

Note.— A strayed aircraft is an aircraft which has deviated significantly from its intended track or which reports that it is lost.

15.4.1.1 A VFR flight reporting that it is uncertain of its position or lost, or encountering adverse meteorological conditions, should be considered to be in a state of emergency and handled as such. The controller shall, under such circumstances, communicate in a clear, concise and calm manner and care shall be taken, at this stage, not to question any fault or negligence that the pilot may have committed in the preparation or conduct of the flight. Depending on the circumstances, the pilot should be requested to provide any of the following information considered pertinent so as to better provide assistance:

- a) aircraft flight conditions;
- b) position (if known) and level;
- c) airspeed and heading since last known position, if pertinent;
- d) pilot experience;

- e) navigation equipment carried and if any navigation aid signals are being received;
- f) SSR Mode and code selected if relevant;
- g) departure and destination aerodromes;
- h) number of persons on board;
- i) endurance.

15.4.1.2 If communications with the aircraft are weak or distorted, it should be suggested that the aircraft climb to a higher level, provided meteorological conditions and other circumstances permit.

15.4.1.3 Navigation assistance to help the pilot determine the aircraft position may be provided by use of radar, direction-finder, navigation aids or sighting by another aircraft. Care must be taken when providing navigation assistance to ensure that the aircraft does not enter cloud.

Note.— The possibility of a VFR flight becoming strayed as a result of encountering adverse meteorological conditions must be recognized.

15.4.1.4 The pilot should be provided with reports and information on suitable aerodromes in the vicinity where visual meteorological conditions exist.

15.4.1.5 If reporting difficulty in maintaining or unable to maintain VMC, the pilot should be informed of the minimum flight altitude of the area where the aircraft is, or is believed to be. If the aircraft is below that level, and the position of the aircraft has been established with a sufficient degree of probability, a track or heading, or a climb, may be suggested to bring the aircraft to a safe level.

15.4.1.6 Radar assistance to a VFR flight should only be provided upon the request or concurrence of the pilot. The type of radar service to be provided should be agreed with the pilot.

15.4.1.7 When providing radar assistance in adverse meteorological conditions, the primary objective should be to bring the aircraft into VMC as soon as possible. Caution must be exercised to prevent the aircraft from entering cloud.

15.4.1.8 Should circumstances be such that IMC cannot be avoided by the pilot, the following guidelines may be followed:

- a) other traffic on the ATC frequency not able to provide any assistance may be instructed to change to another