Dear FAA SFDPS or STDDS data consumer,

It has recently come to the FAA's attention that the availability of beacon code information in data published by SFDPS and STDDS services pertaining to flights that are not yet cleared is causing confusion for air traffic control and pilots, particularly at non-towered airports. Pilots are sometimes squawking beacon codes that have not yet been officially assigned to them, based on information in proposed flight plans.

The FAA intends to remedy the situation by removing any beacon code information from messages pertaining to proposed (not yet cleared by ATC) flight plans. It is anticipated that these upgrades will be deployed operationally next year, for SFDPS in early 2018 and for STDDS later in the year. In the meantime, the FAA would like to enlist the aid and cooperation of SWIM data consumers in ensuring that beacon code information for flights which have not yet been cleared is not propagated. This includes beacon code data in any form, including, but not limited to, in printouts, via republication of the data, or via web or other graphical user interfaces.

The elements and attributes carrying beacon code information in messages from the SFDPS En Route Flight Data Publication service and in messages resulting from the En Route Flight Data Query service include:

Message Name	Element Name
FH, AH, HU, NU, NP, DBRTFPI, BA, RE	beaconCode_04a
FH_FIXM, AH_FIXM, HU_FIXM, NP_FIXM, NU_FIXM, DBRTFPI_FIXM, BA_FIXM, RE_FIXM	flight.enRoute.beaconCodeAssignment.CurrentBeaconCode

This beacon code data should not be made available when the state of a flight is 'Proposed', recognizable by a value of 'Proposed' in the flightState element of flight messages in Simple XML and flight/flightStatus/@fdpsFlightStatus attribute of flight messages in FIXM format.

For STDDS, beacon code information from the STDDS TAIS TerminalAutomationTrackAndFlightPlan (msgType=FP) messages should not be shared if the flight plan is not yet active, recognizable by a FlightPlanStatusType of 'Pending' or 'Passive'.

Message Name	Element Name
TATrackAndFlightPlan	record.flightplan.assignedBeaconCode

Please note that the FAA Terms of Service consumers agree to when signing up for SWIM services include monitoring changes or additions to the terms and abiding by any directives. Your continued use of FAA SWIM services on receipt of this notification signifies your acceptance of this directive. Disregarding this notice may result in the termination of your access to all SWIM services and data.

This topic was also covered at the SWIM Users Forum held on Thursday, October 12, 2:30-4:0.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting your FAA Project Lead. Thank you for your attention to this matter.