

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR W 014/2022

UNITED KINGDOM



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Subject

Administrative



UK PROCESS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF AFTN ADDRESSING

1 Introduction

The UK COM Centre and CAA have identified the absence of clear governance regarding the utilisation of AFTN addresses by 3rd party agencies which has resulted in:

- Use of AFTN addresses under the authority of the UK, by agencies outside of the geographical location of the UK.
- Use of AFTN addresses under the authority of the UK, which are already in use elsewhere within the AFS network, without the permission of the UK.

Due to the increase in global AMHS interconnections and the end-to-end nature of the AMHS network, unauthorised use of AFTN addressing can cause network problems and message loss in the AFS network. These problems can result in messages not being delivered, failure of non-delivery reports, and increased workload for COM Centre staff. The issues have been highlighted and discussed by European COM Centres at the ICAO EUR AFS to SWIM Transition Task Force.

2 Implementation

Following discussion of the problems between the United Kingdom COM Centre and the CAA, the following policy has been agreed for the allocation and coordination of new AFTN addresses within the United Kingdom.

3 Process

In accordance with the ICAO Doc 7910 and Doc 8585, the authority for the allocation of "EG" area ICAO location indicators is the UK State Regulator, the CAA. The CAA manage the assignment and allocation of Location Indicators (ICAO7910) and Designators for Aircraft Operation Agencies, Aeronautical Authorities and Services (ICAO8585) in the UK.

The compilation of AFTN addresses for use in the AFS (Aeronautical Fixed Services) Network is a combination of the four letter Location Indicator followed by the three letter Designator for Aircraft Operating Agencies, Aeronautical Authorities and Services followed by an eighth filler letter.

AFTN 8 letter addresses are used by various agencies for the receipt and delivery of aeronautical messages, either directly or following gateway conversion between ICAO and IATA addressing schemes at Third Party Gateways.

The UK COM centre have the responsibility (delegated by the CAA) for the assignment, coordination and management of 8 letter ICAO AFTN aeronautical message addresses under the authority of the United Kingdom for example; "EG", "LX", "SF", "FH" areas.

No Operating Agency, Aeronautical Authority, Third Party AFS Gateway or other state are permitted to utilise "EG" or other AFTN addresses under the authority of the United Kingdom, without prior approval from the UK COM Centre by following the process below:

- a) The party requesting to use an AFTN address under the authority of the United Kingdom shall submit a request to the UK COM Centre using the included "AFTN Request Proforma", 30 days in advance of the AIRAC Cycle on which implementation is intended, using the following e-mail address: DataServicesSupport@nats.co.uk.

The following information shall be included in the request:

- Address requested (If not known the COM Centre will advise).
- Purpose for using the requested address.
- The following details of the Aeronautical Fixed Station that will Operate the address, "the Originator":

Company Name.

Contact Name.

Telephone Number.

E-mail address.

Originator location and contact address.

- b) Once the UK COM Centre receives an AFTN address request, they will check their current addressing registration and verify the following:
- The address is not already in use in the Network.
 - The originator of the address is based in the UK at the location indicated on the address request.
 - The agency is using the correct Operating Agency Designator.
- c) Once the verification process is complete the UK COM Centre will either approve, reject or amend the proposal.
- d) For locations not directly connected to the UK COM Centre, the AFTN address will be allocated to the appropriate Third Party or UK delegated AMHS PRMD in order to create a full AMHS address. The new AMHS address shall be Coordinated with the EUROCONTROL AMC (Aeronautical Messaging Management Centre) for inclusion in the next appropriate AIRAC Cycle by either the Third Party Gateway or the UK COM Centre. Following implementation by the AMC, the new address can be utilised.

The UK COM Centre will keep a register of the Originator's address and contact details, for use in the event of any issues relating to the allocated addresses detected on the AFS.

The responsibility for correct coordination of "EG" or other AFTN addresses under the authority of the United Kingdom with the UK COM Centre and any subsequent misuse that may cause message loss or network issues lies with the Operating Agency, Aeronautical Authority, Third Party AFS Gateway or State concerned.

It should be noted that the approval of third party registered addresses by the UK COM Centre does not entitle the user to any additional services such as OPMET or NOTAMs as it is the responsibility of the third party to arrange for the distribution of those services to their users.

When use of an AFTN address is discontinued, the approval for the future use of that address shall be transferred back to the UK COM Centre in a timely manner via e-mail to: DataServicesSupport@nats.co.uk.

United Kingdom AFTN Address Request Proforma

Request to be e-mailed to: DataServicesSupport@nats.co.uk

(30 days in advance of the AIRAC cycle on which implementation is intended.)

Address requested, if not known leave blank and the COM Centre will advise?	
Purpose for utilising the requested address?	

The following details of the Aeronautical Fixed Station that will Operate the address, "the Originator":

Company name:	
Contact name:	
Telephone number:	
E-mail address:	
Originator location and contact address:	

When use of an AFTN address is discontinued, the approval for the future use of that address shall be transferred back to the UK COM Centre in a timely manner via e-mail to: DataServicesSupport@nats.co.uk.