



ICAO

International Standards
and Recommended Practices

Annex 15 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

Aeronautical Information Services

Sixteenth Edition, July 2018



This edition supersedes, on 8 November 2018, all previous editions of Annex 15.

For information regarding the applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices, see Foreword.

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AMENDMENTS

Amendments are announced in the supplements to the *Products and Services Catalogue*; the Catalogue and its supplements are available on the ICAO website at www.icao.int. The space below is provided to keep a record of such amendments.

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS AND CORRIGENDA

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FOREWORD

Historical background

Standards and Recommended Practices for aeronautical information services were first adopted by the Council on 15 May 1953, pursuant to the provisions of Article 37 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago 1944), and were designated as Annex 15 to the Convention.

Annex 15 as now presented has undergone the following development. The first requirements were developed by the Air Navigation Committee as a result of recommendations of Regional Air Navigation Meetings, and were published by authority of the Council as *Procedures for International Notices to Airmen* (PANS-NOTAM, PICA0 Doc 2713) in January 1947. In 1949, the Special NOTAM Meeting reviewed and proposed amendments to these procedures which were later issued as *Procedures for Air Navigation Services* (PANS-AIS, Doc 7106) and which became applicable on 1 August 1951. In 1952, the PANS-AIS was reviewed by the First Session of the Aeronautical Information Services Division which recommended the adoption of Standards and Recommended Practices. Following consideration by all Contracting States, these recommendations were reviewed by the Air Navigation Commission and the first set of Standards and Recommended Practices was adopted by the Council on 15 May 1953 as Annex 15 to the Convention. This Annex became applicable on 1 April 1954.

Table A shows the origin of subsequent amendments together with a list of the principal subjects involved and the dates on which the Annex and the amendments were adopted by the Council, when they became effective and when they became applicable.

Applicability

The Standards and Recommended Practices in this document govern the application of the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Aeronautical Information Management* (PANS-AIM, Doc 10066) and the *Regional Supplementary Procedures — Aeronautical Information Services*, contained in Doc 7030, in which latter document will be found subsidiary procedures of regional application.

Action by Contracting States

Notification of differences. The attention of Contracting States is drawn to the obligation imposed by Article 38 of the Convention by which Contracting States are required to notify the Organization of any differences between their national regulations and practices and the International Standards contained in this Annex and any amendments thereto. Contracting States are invited to extend such notification to any differences from the Recommended Practices contained in this Annex and any amendments thereto, when the notification of such differences is important for the safety of air navigation. Further, Contracting States are invited to keep the Organization currently informed of any differences which may subsequently occur, or of the withdrawal of any differences previously notified. A specific request for notification of differences will be sent to Contracting States immediately after the adoption of each amendment to this Annex.

Status of Annex components

An Annex is made up of the following component parts, not all of which, however, are necessarily found in every Annex; they have the status indicated:

1.— *Material comprising the Annex proper:*

- a) *Standards and Recommended Practices* adopted by the Council under the provisions of the Convention. They are defined as follows:

Standard: Any specification for physical characteristics, configuration, matériel, performance, personnel or procedure, the uniform application of which is recognized as necessary for the safety or regularity of international air navigation and to which Contracting States will conform in accordance with the Convention; in the event of impossibility of compliance, notification to the Council is compulsory under Article 38.

Recommended Practice: Any specification for physical characteristics, configuration, matériel, performance, personnel or procedure, the uniform application of which is recognized as desirable in the interest of safety, regularity or efficiency of international air navigation, and to which Contracting States will endeavour to conform in accordance with the Convention.

- b) *Appendices* comprising material grouped separately for convenience but forming part of the Standards and Recommended Practices adopted by the Council.
- c) *Definitions* of terms used in the Standards and Recommended Practices which are not self-explanatory in that they do not have accepted dictionary meanings. A definition does not have independent status but is an essential part of each Standard and Recommended Practice in which the term is used, since a change in the meaning of the term would affect the specification.
- d) *Tables and Figures* which add to or illustrate a Standard or Recommended Practice and which are referred to therein, form part of the associated Standard or Recommended Practice and have the same status.

It is to be noted that some Standards in this Annex incorporate, by reference, other specifications having the status of Recommended Practices. In such cases the text of the Recommended Practice becomes part of the Standard.

2.— *Material approved by the Council for publication in association with the Standards and Recommended Practices:*

- a) *Forewords* comprising historical and explanatory material based on the action of the Council and including an explanation of the obligations of States with regard to the application of the Standards and Recommended Practices ensuing from the Convention and the Resolution of Adoption.
- b) *Introductions* comprising explanatory material introduced at the beginning of parts, chapters or sections of the Annex to assist in the understanding of the application of the text.
- c) *Notes* included in the text, where appropriate, to give factual information or references bearing on the Standards or Recommended Practices in question, but not constituting part of the Standards or Recommended Practices.
- d) *Attachments* comprising material supplementary to the Standards and Recommended Practices, or included as a guide to their application.

Selection of language

This Annex has been adopted in six languages — English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. Each Contracting State is requested to select one of those texts for the purpose of national implementation and for other effects provided for in the Convention, either through direct use or through translation into its own national language, and to notify the Organization accordingly.

Editorial practices

The following practice has been adhered to in order to indicate at a glance the status of each statement: *Standards* have been printed in light face roman; *Recommended Practices* have been printed in light face italics, the status being indicated by the prefix **Recommendation**; *Notes* have been printed in light face italics, the status being indicated by the prefix *Note*.

The following editorial practice has been followed in the writing of specifications: for Standards the operative verb “shall” is used, and for Recommended Practices the operative verb “should” is used.

The units of measurement used in this document are in accordance with the International System of Units (SI) as specified in Annex 5 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Where Annex 5 permits the use of non-SI alternative units these are shown in parentheses following the basic units. Where two sets of units are quoted it must not be assumed that the pairs of values are equal and interchangeable. It may, however, be inferred that an equivalent level of safety is achieved when either set of units is used exclusively.

Any reference to a portion of this document, which is identified by a number and/or title, includes all subdivisions of that portion.

In order to maintain a comprehensive edition of this Annex, the latest amendments have been consolidated in a new edition of the Annex. In so doing, provisions with particular applicability dates have been adjusted editorially, as appropriate.

Table A. Amendments to Annex 15

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
1st Edition	First Session of the Aeronautical Information Services Division		15 May 1953 1 September 1953 1 April 1954
1	Consultation with States	Editorial amendments for consistency in terminology.	27 May 1955 1 October 1955 1 October 1955
2	Consultation with States	Editorial amendments for consistency in terminology.	15 May 1956 15 September 1956 1 December 1956
3	Consultation with States	Definition and identification of prohibited, restricted and danger areas.	16 April 1957 1 September 1957 1 December 1957

Amendment	Source(s)	Subject(s)	Adopted Effective Applicable
4	Consultation with States	Guidance material on the application of the definitions of danger area, prohibited area and restricted area.	14 November 1958 — 14 November 1958
5	Consultation with States	Editorial amendments for consistency in terminology; establishment of worldwide application of location indicators instead of place name abbreviations.	24 March 1959 1 September 1959 1 October 1959
6	Aeronautical Information Services and Aeronautical Charts Division	Contents of Aeronautical Information Publications (AIP); specifications for Aeronautical Information Circulars, and the NOTAM Code.	20 June 1960 1 October 1960 1 January 1961
7	Aeronautical Information Services and Aeronautical Charts Division	Deletion of guidance material.	2 December 1960 — 1 January 1961
8	Correspondence and Council Action to approve new <i>ABC — ICAO Abbreviations and Codes</i> (Doc 8400)	Regulated system (AIRAC); deletion of “NOTAM Code” and “Abbreviations for use by aeronautical information services”; minor amendments to Appendix 1.	25 March 1964 1 August 1964 1 November 1964
9	Rules of the Air and Air Traffic Services/Operations Divisional Meeting	Definitions for danger area, prohibited area, and restricted area.	10 December 1965 10 April 1966 25 August 1966
10	Aeronautical Information Services and Aeronautical Charts Division (1966)	Specifications for Snowplan; definition and <i>pro forma</i> for SNOWTAM; NOTAM Class I text; content of AIP; identification and delineation of restricted airspace; Aeronautical Information Circulars.	13 June 1967 8 October 1967 8 February 1968
11	Fifth Air Navigation Conference	Pre-flight information service; information on runway visual range systems.	23 January 1969 23 May 1969 18 September 1969
12	Sixth Air Navigation Conference, and transfer from Regional Supplementary Procedures	Publication of information on air traffic services systems, i.e. on reporting points and minimum flight altitudes; NOTAM information on the conduct of search and rescue operations.	15 May 1970 15 September 1970 4 February 1971
13	Aeronautical Information Services and Aeronautical Charts Division; Sixth Air Navigation Conference	Predetermined distribution system of NOTAM Class I; composition of NOTAM; information on aeronautical meteorological facilities and services available for international air navigation.	19 March 1971 6 September 1971 6 January 1972
14	Regional Air Navigation Meeting Recommendations of worldwide applicability. Recommendation 19/29 of CAR IV RAN Meeting (1966); Recommendation 19/10 of SAM/SAT/III RAN Meeting (1967); Recommendations 19/4 and 19/5 of MID/SEA RAN Meeting (1968); Recommendation 17/5 of NAT/V RAN Meeting (1970)	Availability of Aeronautical Information Service in cases where 24-hour service is not provided; decoding of NOTAM for pre-flight planning; promulgation of information that no NOTAM Class II have been issued; provision of information to the aeronautical information service by each of the State services associated with aircraft operations; publication in AIP of the coordinates of the antennae of stations providing aeronautical mobile and/or aeronautical navigation services, to an accuracy of at least one-tenth of a minute.	15 December 1971 15 April 1972 7 December 1972

Amendment	Source(s)	Subject(s)	Adopted Effective Applicable
15	Amendment 43 to Annex 4 — <i>Aeronautical Charts</i> ; Amendment 1 to 10th edition of PANS-RAC (Doc 4444); Recommendations 16/3, 16/8, 16/10 b) and 16/15 of the 6th EUM RAN Meeting; Amendment 28 to Annex 14 — <i>Aerodromes</i> ; Amendment 51 to Annex 10 — <i>Aeronautical Telecommunications</i>	Publication in AIP of the locations at aerodromes of VOR and INS check-points; publication in AIP of names, coded designators and geographical coordinates of significant points defining air traffic services routes, and of information on bird concentrations in the vicinity of aerodromes and bird migrations; listing of types of information inappropriate to NOTAM; type of information appropriate to Aeronautical Information Circulars; alignment of the terminology with the definition in Annex 14 for snow on the ground.	19 March 1973 30 July 1973 23 May 1974
16	Council's request (78-14) to consult States on publication in AIP of differences from Annexes and PANS; Amendment 6 to the PANS-RAC	Publication in AIP of differences between the national regulations and practices of a State and the related ICAO Standards, Recommended Practices and Procedures; elimination of inconsistencies between requirements in Appendix 1 and parent provisions in the Annex; transfer of requirements for information concerning ATIS from the MET to the RAC part of the AIP.	25 June 1974 25 October 1974 27 February 1975
17	Recommendation 2/6 of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Panel on Supersonic Transport Operations; study by the Air Navigation Commission concerning interception of aircraft	Dissemination by NOTAM of forecasts of solar cosmic radiation where provided; publication in AIP of interception procedures and visual signals to be used.	4 February 1975 4 June 1975 9 October 1975
18	Recommendations of Regional Air Navigation Meetings (EUM 6 Rec 9/4, AFI/5 Rec 6/2 c), d) and ASIA/PAC Rec 6/3 c)) and request by IATA to amend Annex 14; general review of Annex 14	Publication in AIP of information concerning operations for the removal of disabled aircraft at aerodromes; notification of the status of rescue and fire fighting services available at an aerodrome in terms of significant changes in the level of protection; definitions for manoeuvring area and movement area; substitution of expression "altimeter check location" for "altimeter checkpoint".	5 February 1976 5 June 1976 30 December 1976
19	Recommendation 3/16 of the 7th Air Navigation Conference; revision (Amendment No. 60) of Annex 3 — <i>Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation</i>	Publication in AIP, in the case of ILS installations, the extent of compliance with the provisions in Annex 10 regarding localizer and glide path beam structure and of the height of the ILS reference datum; realignment of Part 4 — Meteorology with the new specifications and terminology introduced by Amendment 60 to Annex 3.	27 June 1977 27 October 1977 23 February 1978
20	9th Air Navigation Conference	Publication in the AIP of description of ATS routes; North reference (magnetic, true or grid) for tracks or bearings.	9 December 1977 9 April 1978 10 August 1978
21	Proposals submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany (also on behalf of the United Kingdom) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	NOTAM Class I format and the publication of amendments to the AIP.	31 March 1980 31 July 1980 27 November 1980
22	Proposal arising from a study by the Air Navigation Commission and proposal submitted by the Secretariat	Activities which constitute a potential hazard to flights of civil aircraft and receipt of AIRAC NOTAM 28 days in advance of the effective date.	13 March 1981 13 July 1981 26 November 1981
23	Proposals submitted by the Secretariat and the United Kingdom	Plain-language pre-flight information bulletins, interception of civil aircraft and "Nil Notification" of AIRAC NOTAM.	2 April 1982 2 August 1982 25 November 1982

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
24	Recommendations 7/5, 7/8 and 10/2 of the Aerodromes, Air Routes and Ground Aids Divisional Meeting (1981)	Revised SNOWTAM format; publication in the AIP of wet runway surface friction and of the existence of an obstacle-free zone.	17 November 1982 17 March 1983 24 November 1983
25	Recommendation 7/7 of the Aerodromes, Air Routes and Ground Aids Divisional Meeting (1981)	Method of referencing date/time.	25 March 1985 29 July 1985 21 November 1985
26	Various sources, including Conclusions 22/24 and 24/20 of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG); Recommendation 9 of All Weather Operations Panel (AWOP); Recommendation 1/4 of the Obstacle Clearance Panel (OCP); Amendments 64, 47 and 38 to Annexes 3, 4 and 14 respectively; proposals submitted by the United Kingdom and by the Secretariat	Updating of the provisions relating to the use of A-4 sheet size paper in the AIP; origination and distribution of NOTAM and AIC; adequacy and authenticity of aeronautical information and the regulated system (AIRAC); changes to predetermined distribution system for NOTAM Class I; introduction of an abbreviated heading and changes to the SNOWTAM format and the guidance for its completion; publication in the AIP of the location of the DME zero-range indication point; updating of the list of charts forming part of the AIP; publication in the AIP of additional operational data concerning standard routes for taxiing aircraft, highest elevation of the touchdown zone of a precision approach runway, and geographical coordinates of thresholds and aircraft stands; inclusion of references to the seventh and eighth letters in the address indicators in the predetermined distribution system; and volcanic ash cloud warnings.	6 March 1987 27 July 1987 22 October 1987
27	Various sources, including Conclusion 30/15 of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG); Air Navigation Commission's review of the Annexes; Recommendation 3/3 of the Visual Flight Rules Operations Panel (VFOP); proposal submitted by some European States; and Amendment 39 to Annex 14	Introduction of Integrated Aeronautical Information Package and revised NOTAM Format; promulgation of information on areas or routes where the possibility of interception exists and information relating to safeguarding international civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference; introduction of new ATS airspace classification; bird hazard reduction; updating of terminology and list of friction devices associated with measuring of paved surfaces; introduction of heliport data.	4 March 1991 28 July 1991 14 November 1991

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
28	Various sources, including Conclusion 34/12 of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG); adoption by the Council of WGS-84 as the standard geodetic reference system for international aviation; proposal by RGCS/8; and the Secretariat	Introduction in Chapter 2 of new and revised definitions relating to heliport and Integrated Aeronautical Information Package; amendments to Chapter 3 related to the exchange of aeronautical information and introduction of new provisions concerning the promulgation of WGS-84 related geographical coordinates; amendments and rearrangements of Chapter 4 concerning the restructured contents and general specifications of AIP, AIP Amendment and AIP Supplement specifications and their distribution; amendments to Chapter 5 concerning NOTAM origination and distribution and introduction of a new provision governing the promulgation of information on the release into the atmosphere of radioactive materials and toxic chemicals; upgrading in Chapter 6 to a Standard, of a provision concerning the use of AIRAC dates for the promulgation of changes requiring cartographic work and for updating of navigation databases; deletion in Chapter 8 of a Recommended Practice relating to the format of pre-flight information bulletins; substitution, in Chapter 9, of the specific term “aeronautical fixed telecommunication network (AFTN)” by the general term “aeronautical fixed service (AFS)”;	28 February 1994 28 June 1994 10 November 1994; 25 April 1996; 1 January 1998
29 (Tenth Edition)	Air Navigation Commission and Volcanic Ash Warnings Study Group (VAWSG)	Aeronautical databases, humanitarian flights, a special series NOTAM for volcanic activity and vertical component of the World Geodetic System — 1984 (WGS-84).	20 March 1997 21 July 1997 6 November 1997; 1 January 1998; 5 November 1998
30	Recommendations 1.2/1, 3.3/2 and 4.1/2 of the Aeronautical Information Services/ Aeronautical Charts (AIS/MAP) Divisional Meeting (1998); Air Navigation Commission	Introduction into Chapter 2 of new definitions for aeronautical data, aeronautical information, aeronautical information service, air defence identification zone (ADIZ), AIS product, Human Factors principles, and quality management; new provisions in Chapter 3 concerning the quality system, exchange of aeronautical information/data, copyright, cost recovery, and Human Factors considerations; restructured and new provisions in Chapter 6 dealing with the provision of AIRAC information in electronic form; and introduction into Appendix 1 of new provisions concerning ADIZ.	21 February 2000 17 July 2000 2 November 2000
31	Secretariat	New provisions in Chapter 8 concerning automated aeronautical information systems and harmonized AIS/MET pre-flight briefing and revision of Appendix 1 concerning the provision of information on activities of a dangerous nature and other potential hazards.	7 March 2001 16 July 2001 1 November 2001

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
32 (Eleventh Edition)	Various sources, including Conclusion 40/51 b) of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG); Conclusion 13/51 of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG); Air Navigation Commission; and the Secretariat	Introduction in Chapter 2 of a revised definition for Integrated Aeronautical Information Package; upgrading to a Standard of a provision in Chapter 3 concerning the use of English text; amendments to Chapter 4 concerning specifications for AIP Amendments and Supplements; restructuring and amending of provisions in Chapter 5 and Appendix 6; promulgation by NOTAM of contingency measures; new provisions in Chapter 8 concerning collection of information on the presence of bird hazards to aircraft operations at aerodromes/heliports; and alignment of Appendix 1 with the provisions of Annex 3.	28 February 2003 14 July 2003 27 November 2003
33 (Twelfth Edition)	Recommendation 4/6 of OCP/12; Recommendation 5.3/2 of OCP/13; Recommendation 3/1 of GNSSP/4; Air Navigation Commission; and the Secretariat	New provisions concerning definitions; the vertical reference system and the temporal reference system for international civil aviation; electronic terrain and obstacle data; aeronautical data quality requirements; inclusion of GNSS-related elements in aeronautical information; and the Radar Minimum Altitude Chart — ICAO; and updating of existing provisions related to the World Geodetic System — 1984 (WGS-84) and the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP).	23 February 2004 12 July 2004 25 November 2004; 20 November 2008; 18 November 2010
34	Various sources, including EANPG Conclusion 44/19, Recommendation 2.3/2 of the AIS/MAP Divisional Meeting (1998), and recommendations of the IAWVOPSG/1, OCP/14 and OPLINKP/1 meetings	Definitions and introduction of a new Aerodrome Terrain and Obstacle Chart — ICAO (Electronic). Updating of existing provisions related to the distribution of NOTAM on volcanic activity; use of the AIRAC system; information included in pre-flight briefings; and information to be included in the AIP.	2 March 2007 16 July 2007 22 November 2007
35	Proposals by the Navigation Systems Panel third working group of the whole (NSP/WG/WHL/3); the Secretariat with the assistance of the Required Navigation Performance and Special Operational Requirements Study Group (RNPSORSG); proposals by the Aerodromes Panel (AP/1); and Recommendation 9/3 of the Instrument Flight Procedures Panel first working group of the whole (IFPP/WG/WHL/1)	Definitions and new provisions relating to the provision of information on the status of navigation aids; performance-based navigation terminology; promulgation in the AIP of the status of aerodrome certification; and instrument flight procedures terminology.	4 March 2009 20 July 2009 19 November 2009
36 (Thirteenth Edition)	The Secretariat with the assistance of the Aviation Use of the Public Internet Study Group (AUPISG) and the Aeronautical Information Services—Aeronautical Information Management Study Group (AIS-AIMSG); recommendations of the fourth meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG/4)	New provisions relating to the operational use of the public Internet; the reporting of volcanic ash deposition; quality management systems; the use of automation enabling digital data exchange; electronic aeronautical information publications; the NOTAM Format; and electronic terrain and obstacle data.	22 February 2010 12 July 2010 18 November 2010; 12 November 2015
37 (Fourteenth Edition)	Secretariat with assistance from the Aeronautical Information Services—Aeronautical Information Management Study Group (AIS-AIMSG) and the Aerodromes Panel (AP).	Chapters 1 to 3 restructured; definitions relating to aerodrome mapping data, aeronautical information management, integrity classification; use of the terms “information” and “data”; State and AIS provider responsibilities and functions; information management requirements; data quality; use of automation; aerodrome mapping data; AIP specifications; SNOWTAM; terrain and obstacle data; integrity classifications.	1 March 2013 15 July 2013 14 November 2013

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted Effective Applicable</i>
38	Instrument Flight Procedures Panel (IFPP)	Procedure design criteria and charting requirements to support performance-based navigation (PBN) as well as helicopter point-in-space (PinS) approach and departure operations.	3 March 2014 14 July 2014 13 November 2014
39-A (Fifteenth Edition)	Third meeting of the Aerodrome Panel (AP/3); twelfth meeting of the Instrument Flight Procedures Panel (IFPP/12); second meeting of the Operational Data Link Panel (OPLINKP/2)	Amendment concerning publication of information on runway end safety area (RESA) and arresting system in the AIP; en-route airway directional use restrictions; and performance-based communication and surveillance (PBCS) and satellite voice communications (SATVOICE).	22 February 2016 11 July 2016 10 November 2016
39-B	Friction Task Force (FTF) of the Aerodrome Design and Operations Panel (ADOP)	Amendment concerning the use of a global reporting format for assessing and reporting runway surface conditions.	22 February 2016 11 July 2016 5 November 2020
40 (Sixteenth Edition)	Twelfth meeting of the AIS-AIM Study Group (AIS-AIMSG/12); second meeting of the Meteorology Panel (METP/2)	Amendment concerning restructure of Annex 15 to facilitate incorporation of aeronautical information management (AIM) requirements; changes to the technical content of Annex 15 to facilitate the transition from AIS to AIM; and consequential amendment in support of space weather information.	9 March 2018 16 July 2018 8 November 2018

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