

International Standards



Annex 2
to the Convention on
International Civil Aviation

Rules of the Air

This edition incorporates all amendments adopted by the Council prior to 24 February 2005 and supersedes, on 24 November 2005, all previous editions of Annex 2.

For information regarding the applicability of the Standards, see Foreword.

Tenth Edition
July 2005

International Civil Aviation Organization



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AMENDMENTS

Amendments are announced in the supplements to the *Catalogue of ICAO Publications*; 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

In October 1945, the Rules of the Air and Air Traffic Control (RAC) Division at its first session made recommendations for Standards, Practices and Procedures for the Rules of the Air. These were reviewed by the then Air Navigation Committee and approved by the Council on 25 February 1946. They were published as *Recommendations for Standards, Practices and Procedures — Rules of the Air* in the first part of Doc 2010, published in February 1946.

The RAC Division, at its second session in December 1946 – January 1947, reviewed Doc 2010 and proposed Standards and Recommended Practices for the Rules of the Air. These were adopted by the Council as Standards and Recommended Practices relating to Rules of the Air on 15 April 1948, pursuant to Article 37 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, 1944) and designated as Annex 2 to the Convention with the title *International Standards and Recommended Practices — Rules of the Air*. They became effective on 15 September 1948.

On 27 November 1951, the Council adopted a complete new text of the Annex, which no longer contained Recommended Practices. The Standards of the amended Annex 2 (Amendment 1) became effective on 1 April 1952 and applicable on 1 September 1952.

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

Applicability

The Standards in this document, together with the Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 11, govern the application of the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) and the *Regional Supplementary Procedures — Rules of the Air and Air Traffic Services*, contained in Doc 7030, in which latter document will be found subsidiary procedures of regional application.

Flight over the high seas. It should be noted that the Council resolved, in adopting Annex 2 in April 1948 and Amendment 1 to the said Annex in November 1951, that the Annex constitutes *Rules relating to the flight and manoeuvre of aircraft* within the meaning of Article 12 of the Convention. Over the high seas, therefore, these rules apply without exception.

On 15 November 1972, when adopting Amendment 14 to Annex 2 relating to authority over aircraft operating over the high seas, the Council emphasized that the Amendment was intended solely to improve safety of flight and to ensure adequate provision of air traffic services over the high seas. The Amendment in no way affects the legal jurisdiction of States of Registry over their aircraft or the responsibility of Contracting States under Article 12 of the Convention for enforcing the Rules of the Air.

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 keep the Organization currently informed of any differences which may subsequently occur, or of the withdrawal of any differences previously notified. Contracting States are also invited to notify the Organization of any differences between their national regulations and practices and the special recommendations contained in Attachment A to this Annex. A specific request for notification of differences will be sent to Contracting States immediately after the adoption of each amendment to this Annex.

Attention of States is also drawn to the provisions of Annex 15 related to the publication of differences between their national regulations and practices and the related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices through the Aeronautical Information Service, in addition to the obligation of States under Article 38 of the Convention.

Promulgation of information. Information relating to the applicability of national rules and procedures, and changes thereto, established according to the Standards specified in this Annex shall be notified in accordance with Annex 15.

Use of the text of the Annex in national regulations. The Council, on 13 April 1948, adopted a resolution inviting the attention of Contracting States to the desirability of using in their own national regulations, as far as practicable, the precise language of those ICAO Standards that are of a regulatory character and also of indicating departures from the Standards, including any additional national regulations that were important for the safety or regularity of air navigation. Wherever possible, the provisions of this Annex have been written in such a way as would facilitate incorporation, without major textual changes, into national legislation.

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 interests 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 an 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.

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; *Notes* have been printed in light face italics, the status being indicated by the prefix *Note*. There are no *Recommended Practices* in Annex 2.

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 includes all subdivisions of the portion.

Table A. Amendments to Annex 2

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted/approved Effective Applicable</i>
1st Edition (1948)	RAC Division, Second Session (1947)	Standards and Recommended Practices — Rules of the Air.	15 April 1948 15 September 1948 —
1 (2nd Edition)	RAC Division, Fourth Session (1950)	Complete revision and rearrangement of the Annex.	27 November 1951 1 April 1952 1 September 1952
2	RAC Committee of the European- Mediterranean Region Fourth Special Meeting (1952)	Radiocommunication failure procedures; flight plan.	17 November 1953 1 April 1954 1 September 1954
3 (3rd Edition)	Second Air Navigation Conference (1955)	Definitions and terminology; VFR flight outside controlled airspace; distress and urgency signals; signals for aerodrome traffic; marshalling signals.	11 May 1956 15 September 1956 1 December 1956
4	Air Navigation Commission	Guidance material on the application of the definitions of danger area; prohibited area and restricted area.	14 November 1958 — —
5 (4th Edition)	RAC/SAR Divisions Meeting (1958); Air Navigation Commission	Definitions; prohibition of VFR flights at night within controlled airspace; avoidance of collisions; flight plans; visual and instrument flight rules; SELCAL; marshalling signals.	8 December 1959 1 May 1960 1 August 1960
6	RAC/SAR Divisions Meeting (1958); Airworthiness Committee, Fourth Meeting (1960)	VFR flight; table of cruising levels; aircraft navigation lights.	13 December 1961 1 April 1962 1 July 1962
7	Fourth North Atlantic Regional Air Navigation Meeting (1961)	Application of table of cruising levels in polar areas.	27 June 1962 1 November 1962 1 December 1962
8 (5th Edition)	RAC/OPS Divisional Meeting (1963); Air Navigation Commission	Definitions; provisions regarding flight level and altitudes; submission of flight plans; establishment of a single table of VFR criteria; prohibition of VFR flights at night in uncontrolled airspace and above FL 200; communications for IFR flights outside controlled airspace; replacement of quadrantal table of cruising levels by a semi-circular table; vertical separation above FL 290.	29 November 1965 29 March 1966 25 August 1966
9	Air Navigation Commission	Guidance material; excerpts from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.	29 November 1965 — —
10	Air Traffic Control Automation Panel (ATCAP), Fifth Meeting (1966); Air Navigation Commission	Flight plans; deletion of guidance material regarding the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and of the associated application Standard.	7 June 1967 5 October 1967 8 February 1968

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted/approved Effective Applicable</i>
11	Fifth Air Navigation Conference (1967)	Air traffic services reporting office; marshalling signals.	23 January 1969 23 May 1969 18 September 1969
12 (6th Edition)	Sixth Air Navigation Conference (1969)	Definitions; minimum heights/levels; controlled VFR flights; new terminology for designating controlled airspace.	25 May 1970 25 September 1970 4 February 1971
13	Limited European-Mediterranean (RAC/COM) Regional Air Navigation Meeting (1969); Air Navigation Commission	Radiocommunication failure procedures; unserviceability markings on manoeuvring areas.	24 March 1972 24 July 1972 7 December 1972
14	Air Navigation Commission	Authority over aircraft operating over the high seas.	15 November 1972 15 March 1973 16 August 1973
15	Air Traffic Control Automation Panel (ATCAP), Fifth Meeting (1966)	Repetitive flight plans.	13 December 1972 13 April 1973 16 August 1973
16	Seventh Air Navigation Conference (1972)	Note relating to SSR Mode C transmission of pressure-altitude.	23 March 1973 — 23 May 1974
17	Council action in pursuance of Assembly Resolutions A17-10 and A18-10	Practices to be followed in the event that an aircraft is being subjected to unlawful interference.	7 December 1973 7 April 1974 23 May 1974
18	Air Navigation Commission	Radiocommunication failure procedures; Note concerning lease, charter and interchange of aircraft.	8 April 1974 8 August 1974 27 February 1975
19	Technical Panel on Supersonic Transport Operations (SSTP), Fourth Meeting (1973); Air Navigation Commission	Action by an aircraft which is being intercepted; visual signals for use in the event of interception; guidance material to assist States in eliminating or reducing interceptions; provision relating to flight at transonic and supersonic speeds; changes to reflect the concept of cruise climbs.	4 February 1975 4 June 1975 9 October 1975
20	Air Navigation Commission	Time-keeping accuracy in ATS units and on board aircraft; use of SSR code 7500 in the event of unlawful interference.	7 April 1976 7 August 1976 30 December 1976
21	Ninth Air Navigation Conference (1976)	Definitions relating to changeover points and transition altitudes; requirement for aircraft to adhere to the centre line of ATS routes and to comply with changeover points; cruising levels; flight plans and position reports; alignment of the definition of flight level with that in Annex 3 and Annex 10, Volume II.	7 December 1977 7 April 1978 10 August 1978
22	Air Navigation Commission	Unmanned free balloons; estimated time of arrival.	2 March 1981 2 July 1981 26 November 1981

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted/approved Effective Applicable</i>
23 (7th Edition)	Air Navigation Commission	Interception of civil aircraft.	1 April 1981 1 August 1981 26 November 1981
24	Air Navigation Commission	Aircraft exterior lights.	19 March 1982 19 July 1982 25 November 1982
25	Air Navigation Commission; AGA Divisional Meeting (1981)	Definitions relating to height, instrument approach procedure, manoeuvring and movement area, taxiing, and taxiway; use of the phrase “HIJACK” in the event of interception of civil aircraft; note regarding lease, charter or interchange of aircraft; provisions related to surface movement of aircraft and taxiing; series 2 signals used by helicopters in the event of interception; units of measurement.	21 March 1983 29 July 1983 24 November 1983
26	ATS Data Acquisition, Processing and Transfer Panel, Third Meeting (1981); Air Navigation Commission	Definitions; contents of flight plans; repetitive flight plans; ATS data interchange; pronunciations to be used by intercepting aircraft; alignment of the radiotelephony urgency signal with Annex 10, Volume II; Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).	22 June 1984 22 October 1984 21 November 1985
27 (8th Edition)	Council; Air Navigation Commission	Identification and interception of civil aircraft.	10 March 1986 27 July 1986 20 November 1986
28	Air Navigation Commission	Definition of “apron”; special procedures for use during unlawful interference.	16 March 1987 27 July 1987 19 November 1987
29 (9th Edition)	Visual Flight Rules Operations Panel, Third Meeting (1986); Secretariat; Visual Aids Panel, Eleventh Meeting (1987); Air Navigation Commission; amendments consequential to adoption of amendments to Annex 6	Operation of aircraft in mixed VFR/IFR environments; surface movement of aircraft and surface movement guidance and control; acts of unlawful interference; helicopters as intercepting aircraft.	12 March 1990 30 July 1990 14 November 1991
30	Secondary Surveillance Radar Improvements and Collision Avoidance Systems Panel, Fourth Meeting (SICAS/4) (1989)	Definitions; airborne collision avoidance system (ACAS).	26 February 1993 26 July 1993 11 November 1993
31	Review of the General Concept of Separation Panel, Seventh Meeting (1990); Air Navigation Commission; Automatic Dependent Surveillance Panel, Second Meeting (1992)	Definitions; air-taxiing; separation between aircraft; formation flights by civil aircraft in controlled airspace; automatic dependent surveillance.	18 March 1994 25 July 1994 10 November 1994

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted/approved Effective Applicable</i>
32	Air Navigation Commission	Note related to carriage requirements of airborne collision avoidance systems.	19 February 1996 19 February 1996 —
33	Air Navigation Commission	Communication failure procedures.	26 February 1997 21 July 1997 6 November 1997
34	Automatic Dependent Surveillance Panel, Fourth Meeting (1996); Review of the General Concept of Separation Panel, Ninth Meeting (1996); consequential to Amendment 162 to Annex 1	Definitions; automatic dependent surveillance systems and procedures; data interchange between automated ATS systems; ATS applications for air-ground data links; problematic use of psychoactive substances.	19 March 1998 20 July 1998 5 November 1998
35	Air Navigation Commission; Visual Aids Panel, Thirteenth Meeting (1997)	ATS airspace classifications; visual meteorological conditions clearance; runway-holding position.	10 March 1999 19 July 1999 4 November 1999
36	Consequential as a result of Amendment 40 to Annex 11; Amendments 23 and 25 to Annex 6, Part I; Amendments 20 and 7 to Annex 6, Parts II and III, respectively; and Amendment 72 to Annex 3	Revised definitions of “air traffic control unit”, “approach control unit”, “alternate aerodrome” “flight crew member”, “pilot-in-command” and “visibility”; editorial amendments.	12 March 2001 16 July 2001 1 November 2001
37	Separation and Airspace Safety Panel (SASP)	Pilot procedures in the event of unlawful interference; editorial amendments.	28 February 2003 — —
38 (10th Edition)	Secretariat	Definitions; marshalling signals; communication failure procedures; interception manoeuvres; editorial amendments.	23 February 2005 11 July 2005 24 November 2005
39	Secretariat	Restructuring of text to emphasize the responsibility of the pilot-in-command for the avoidance of collisions.	20 February 2006 17 July 2006 23 November 2006
40	Air Navigation Commission	Definitions and associated procedures for ADS-B, ADS-C and ADS-C agreement; pilot procedures in the event of unlawful interference.	26 February 2007 16 July 2007 22 November 2007
41	Secretariat with the assistance of the Required Navigation Performance and Special Operational Requirements (RNPSOR) Study Group	Amendment to a definition and Standard to align required navigation performance (RNP) and area navigation (RNAV) terminology with the performance-based navigation (PBN) concept.	10 March 2008 20 July 2008 20 November 2008

<i>Amendment</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>	<i>Subject(s)</i>	<i>Adopted/approved Effective Applicable</i>
42	Recommendation 8/1 of the seventh meeting of the Operations Panel (OPSP/7); Secretariat with the assistance of the APANPIRG task force on RVSM	Amendments to standard emergency hand signals for emergency communications between aircraft rescue and firefighting personnel and flight and/or cabin crews; and harmonization of cruising levels.	4 March 2009 20 July 2009 19 November 2009
43	Secretariat; Separation and Airspace Safety Panel (SASP); Unmanned Aircraft Systems Study Group (UASSG)	Amendment to definitions; speed variations; and remotely piloted aircraft.	7 March 2012 16 July 2012 15 November 2012
44	Secretariat; Approach Classification Task Force (ACTF)	Definitions related to instrument approach operations.	25 February 2013 15 July 2013 13 November 2014

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

CHAPTER 1. DEFINITIONS

Note 1.— Throughout the text of this document the term “service” is used as an abstract noun to designate functions, or service rendered; the term “unit” is used to designate a collective body performing a service.

Note 2.— The designation (RR) in these definitions indicates a definition which has been extracted from the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (see Handbook on Radio Frequency Spectrum Requirements for Civil Aviation including statement of approved ICAO policies (Doc 9718)).

When the following terms are used in the International Standards for Rules of the Air, they have the following meanings:

Acrobatic flight. Manoeuvres intentionally performed by an aircraft involving an abrupt change in its attitude, an abnormal attitude, or an abnormal variation in speed.

ADS-C agreement. A reporting plan which establishes the conditions of ADS-C data reporting (i.e. data required by the air traffic services unit and frequency of ADS-C reports which have to be agreed to prior to using ADS-C in the provision of air traffic services).

Note.— The terms of the agreement will be exchanged between the ground system and the aircraft by means of a contract, or a series of contracts.

Advisory airspace. An airspace of defined dimensions, or designated route, within which air traffic advisory service is available.

Advisory route. A designated route along which air traffic advisory service is available.

Aerodrome. A defined area on land or water (including any buildings, installations and equipment) intended to be used either wholly or in part for the arrival, departure and surface movement of aircraft.

Aerodrome control service. Air traffic control service for aerodrome traffic.

Aerodrome control tower. A unit established to provide air traffic control service to aerodrome traffic.

Aerodrome traffic. All traffic on the manoeuvring area of an aerodrome and all aircraft flying in the vicinity of an aerodrome.

Note.— An aircraft is in the vicinity of an aerodrome when it is in, entering or leaving an aerodrome traffic circuit.

Aerodrome traffic zone. An airspace of defined dimensions established around an aerodrome for the protection of aerodrome traffic.

Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP). A publication issued by or with the authority of a State and containing aeronautical information of a lasting character essential to air navigation.

Aeronautical station (RR S1.81). A land station in the aeronautical mobile service. In certain instances, an aeronautical station may be located, for example, on board ship or on a platform at sea.

Aeroplane. A power-driven heavier-than-air aircraft, deriving its lift in flight chiefly from aerodynamic reactions on surfaces which remain fixed under given conditions of flight.

Airborne collision avoidance system (ACAS). An aircraft system based on secondary surveillance radar (SSR) transponder signals which operates independently of ground-based equipment to provide advice to the pilot on potential conflicting aircraft that are equipped with SSR transponders.

Aircraft. Any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air other than the reactions of the air against the earth's surface.

Air-ground control radio station. An aeronautical telecommunication station having primary responsibility for handling communications pertaining to the operation and control of aircraft in a given area.

Air-taxiing. Movement of a helicopter/VTOL above the surface of an aerodrome, normally in ground effect and at a ground speed normally less than 37 km/h (20 kt).

Note.— The actual height may vary, and some helicopters may require air-taxiing above 8 m (25 ft) AGL to reduce ground effect turbulence or provide clearance for cargo slingloads.

Air traffic. All aircraft in flight or operating on the manoeuvring area of an aerodrome.

Air traffic advisory service. A service provided within advisory airspace to ensure separation, in so far as practical, between aircraft which are operating on IFR flight plans.

Air traffic control clearance. Authorization for an aircraft to proceed under conditions specified by an air traffic control unit.

Note 1.— For convenience, the term “air traffic control clearance” is frequently abbreviated to “clearance” when used in appropriate contexts.

Note 2.— The abbreviated term “clearance” may be prefixed by the words “taxi”, “take-off”, “departure”, “en route”, “approach” or “landing” to indicate the particular portion of flight to which the air traffic control clearance relates.

Air traffic control service. A service provided for the purpose of:

- a) preventing collisions:
 - 1) between aircraft, and
 - 2) on the manoeuvring area between aircraft and obstructions, and
- b) expediting and maintaining an orderly flow of air traffic.

Air traffic control unit. A generic term meaning variously, area control centre, approach control unit or aerodrome control tower.

Air traffic service. A generic term meaning variously, flight information service, alerting service, air traffic advisory service, air traffic control service (area control service, approach control service or aerodrome control service).

Air traffic services airspaces. Airspaces of defined dimensions, alphabetically designated, within which specific types of flights may operate and for which air traffic services and rules of operation are specified.

Note.— ATS airspaces are classified as Class A to G.

Air traffic services reporting office. A unit established for the purpose of receiving reports concerning air traffic services and flight plans submitted before departure.

Note.— *An air traffic services reporting office may be established as a separate unit or combined with an existing unit, such as another air traffic services unit, or a unit of the aeronautical information service.*

Air traffic services unit. A generic term meaning variously, air traffic control unit, flight information centre or air traffic services reporting office.

Airway. A control area or portion thereof established in the form of a corridor.

Alerting service. A service provided to notify appropriate organizations regarding aircraft in need of search and rescue aid, and assist such organizations as required.

Alternate aerodrome. An aerodrome to which an aircraft may proceed when it becomes either impossible or inadvisable to proceed to or to land at the aerodrome of intended landing where the necessary services and facilities are available, where aircraft performance requirements can be met and which is operational at the expected time of use. Alternate aerodromes include the following:

Take-off alternate. An alternate aerodrome at which an aircraft would be able to land should this become necessary shortly after take-off and it is not possible to use the aerodrome of departure.

En-route alternate. An alternate aerodrome at which an aircraft would be able to land in the event that a diversion becomes necessary while en route.

Destination alternate. An alternate aerodrome at which an aircraft would be able to land should it become either impossible or inadvisable to land at the aerodrome of intended landing.

Note.— *The aerodrome from which a flight departs may also be an en-route or a destination alternate aerodrome for that flight.*

Altitude. The vertical distance of a level, a point or an object considered as a point, measured from mean sea level (MSL).

Approach control service. Air traffic control service for arriving or departing controlled flights.

Approach control unit. A unit established to provide air traffic control service to controlled flights arriving at, or departing from, one or more aerodromes.

Appropriate ATS authority. The relevant authority designated by the State responsible for providing air traffic services in the airspace concerned.

Appropriate authority.

- a) *Regarding flight over the high seas:* The relevant authority of the State of Registry.
- b) *Regarding flight other than over the high seas:* The relevant authority of the State having sovereignty over the territory being overflown.

Apron. A defined area, on a land aerodrome, intended to accommodate aircraft for purposes of loading or unloading passengers, mail or cargo, fuelling, parking or maintenance.

Area control centre. A unit established to provide air traffic control service to controlled flights in control areas under its jurisdiction.

Area control service. Air traffic control service for controlled flights in control areas.

Area navigation (RNAV). A method of navigation which permits aircraft operation on any desired flight path within the coverage of ground- or space-based navigation aids or within the limits of the capability of self-contained aids, or a combination of these.

Note.— Area navigation includes performance-based navigation as well as other operations that do not meet the definition of performance-based navigation.

ATS route. A specified route designed for channelling the flow of traffic as necessary for the provision of air traffic services.

Note 1.— The term “ATS route” is used to mean variously, airway, advisory route, controlled or uncontrolled route, arrival or departure route, etc.

Note 2.— An ATS route is defined by route specifications which include an ATS route designator, the track to or from significant points (waypoints), distance between significant points, reporting requirements and, as determined by the appropriate ATS authority, the lowest safe altitude.

Automatic dependent surveillance — broadcast (ADS-B). A means by which aircraft, aerodrome vehicles and other objects can automatically transmit and/or receive data such as identification, position and additional data, as appropriate, in a broadcast mode via a data link.

Automatic dependent surveillance — contract (ADS-C). A means by which the terms of an ADS-C agreement will be exchanged between the ground system and the aircraft, via a data link, specifying under what conditions ADS-C reports would be initiated, and what data would be contained in the reports.

Note.— The abbreviated term “ADS contract” is commonly used to refer to ADS event contract, ADS demand contract, ADS periodic contract or an emergency mode.

Ceiling. The height above the ground or water of the base of the lowest layer of cloud below 6 000 metres (20 000 feet) covering more than half the sky.

Changeover point. The point at which an aircraft navigating on an ATS route segment defined by reference to very high frequency omnidirectional radio ranges is expected to transfer its primary navigational reference from the facility behind the aircraft to the next facility ahead of the aircraft.

Note.— Changeover points are established to provide the optimum balance in respect of signal strength and quality between facilities at all levels to be used and to ensure a common source of azimuth guidance for all aircraft operating along the same portion of a route segment.

Clearance limit. The point to which an aircraft is granted an air traffic control clearance.

Command and control (C2) link. The data link between the remotely piloted aircraft and the remote pilot station for the purposes of managing the flight.

Control area. A controlled airspace extending upwards from a specified limit above the earth.

Controlled aerodrome. An aerodrome at which air traffic control service is provided to aerodrome traffic.

Note.— The term “controlled aerodrome” indicates that air traffic control service is provided to aerodrome traffic but does not necessarily imply that a control zone exists.

Controlled airspace. An airspace of defined dimensions within which air traffic control service is provided in accordance with the airspace classification.

Note.— Controlled airspace is a generic term which covers ATS airspace Classes A, B, C, D and E as described in Annex 11, 2.6.

Controlled flight. Any flight which is subject to an air traffic control clearance.

Controller-pilot data link communications (CPDLC). A means of communication between controller and pilot, using data link for ATC communications.

Control zone. A controlled airspace extending upwards from the surface of the earth to a specified upper limit.

Cruise climb. An aeroplane cruising technique resulting in a net increase in altitude as the aeroplane mass decreases.

Cruising level. A level maintained during a significant portion of a flight.

Current flight plan. The flight plan, including changes, if any, brought about by subsequent clearances.

Danger area. An airspace of defined dimensions within which activities dangerous to the flight of aircraft may exist at specified times.

Data link communications. A form of communication intended for the exchange of messages via a data link.

Detect and avoid. The capability to see, sense or detect conflicting traffic or other hazards and take the appropriate action.

Estimated off-block time. The estimated time at which the aircraft will commence movement associated with departure.

Estimated time of arrival. For IFR flights, the time at which it is estimated that the aircraft will arrive over that designated point, defined by reference to navigation aids, from which it is intended that an instrument approach procedure will be commenced, or, if no navigation aid is associated with the aerodrome, the time at which the aircraft will arrive over the aerodrome. For VFR flights, the time at which it is estimated that the aircraft will arrive over the aerodrome.

Expected approach time. The time at which ATC expects that an arriving aircraft, following a delay, will leave the holding fix to complete its approach for a landing.

Note.— The actual time of leaving the holding fix will depend upon the approach clearance.

Filed flight plan. The flight plan as filed with an ATS unit by the pilot or a designated representative, without any subsequent changes.

Flight crew member. A licensed crew member charged with duties essential to the operation of an aircraft during a flight duty period.

Flight information centre. A unit established to provide flight information service and alerting service.

Flight information region. An airspace of defined dimensions within which flight information service and alerting service are provided.

Flight information service. A service provided for the purpose of giving advice and information useful for the safe and efficient conduct of flights.

Flight level. A surface of constant atmospheric pressure which is related to a specific pressure datum, 1 013.2 hectopascals (hPa), and is separated from other such surfaces by specific pressure intervals.

Note 1.— A pressure type altimeter calibrated in accordance with the Standard Atmosphere:

- a) *when set to a QNH altimeter setting, will indicate altitude;*
- b) *when set to a QFE altimeter setting, will indicate height above the QFE reference datum;*
- c) *when set to a pressure of 1 013.2 hPa, may be used to indicate flight levels.*

Note 2.— The terms “height” and “altitude”, used in Note 1 above, indicate altimetric rather than geometric heights and altitudes.

Flight plan. Specified information provided to air traffic services units, relative to an intended flight or portion of a flight of an aircraft.

Flight visibility. The visibility forward from the cockpit of an aircraft in flight.

Ground visibility. The visibility at an aerodrome as reported by an accredited observer or by automatic systems.

Heading. The direction in which the longitudinal axis of an aircraft is pointed, usually expressed in degrees from North (true, magnetic, compass or grid).

Height. The vertical distance of a level, a point or an object considered as a point, measured from a specified datum.

IFR. The symbol used to designate the instrument flight rules.

IFR flight. A flight conducted in accordance with the instrument flight rules.

IMC. The symbol used to designate instrument meteorological conditions.

Instrument approach operations. An approach and landing using instruments for navigation guidance based on an instrument approach procedure. There are two methods for executing instrument approach operations:

- a) a two-dimensional (2D) instrument approach operation, using lateral navigation guidance only; and
- b) a three-dimensional (3D) instrument approach operation, using both lateral and vertical navigation guidance.

Note.— Lateral and vertical navigation guidance refers to the guidance provided either by:

- a) *a ground-based radio navigation aid; or*
- b) *computer-generated navigation data from ground-based, space-based, self-contained navigation aids or a combination of these.*

Instrument approach procedure. A series of predetermined manoeuvres by reference to flight instruments with specified protection from obstacles from the initial approach fix, or where applicable, from the beginning of a defined arrival route to a point from which a landing can be completed and thereafter, if a landing is not completed, to a position at which holding or en-route obstacle clearance criteria apply. Instrument approach procedures are classified as follows:

Non-precision approach (NPA) procedure. An instrument approach procedure designed for 2D instrument approach operations Type A.

Note.— Non-precision approach procedures may be flown using a continuous descent final approach (CDFA) technique. CDFAs with advisory VNAV guidance calculated by on-board equipment (see PANS-OPS (Doc 8168), Volume I, Part I, Section 4, Chapter 1, paragraph 1.8.1) are considered 3D instrument approach operations. CDFAs with manual calculation of the required rate of descent are considered 2D instrument approach operations. For more information on CDFAs, refer to PANS-OPS (Doc 8168) Volume I, Part I, Section 4, Chapter 1, paragraphs 1.7 and 1.8.

Approach procedure with vertical guidance (APV). A performance-based navigation (PBN) instrument approach procedure designed for 3D instrument approach operations Type A.

Precision approach (PA) procedure. An instrument approach procedure based on navigation systems (ILS, MLS, GLS and SBAS Cat I) designed for 3D instrument approach operations Type A or B.

Note.— Refer to Annex 6 for instrument approach operation types.

Instrument meteorological conditions. Meteorological conditions expressed in terms of visibility, distance from cloud, and ceiling, less than the minima specified for visual meteorological conditions.

Note.— The specified minima for visual meteorological conditions are contained in Chapter 4.

Landing area. That part of a movement area intended for the landing or take-off of aircraft.

Level. A generic term relating to the vertical position of an aircraft in flight and meaning variously, height, altitude or flight level.

Manoeuvring area. That part of an aerodrome to be used for the take-off, landing and taxiing of aircraft, excluding aprons.

Movement area. That part of an aerodrome to be used for the take-off, landing and taxiing of aircraft, consisting of the manoeuvring area and the apron(s).

Operator. A person, organization or enterprise engaged in or offering to engage in an aircraft operation.

Note.— In the context of remotely piloted aircraft, an aircraft operation includes the remotely piloted aircraft system.

Pilot-in-command. The pilot designated by the operator, or in the case of general aviation, the owner, as being in command and charged with the safe conduct of a flight.

Pressure-altitude. An atmospheric pressure expressed in terms of altitude which corresponds to that pressure in the Standard Atmosphere.*

Problematic use of substances. The use of one or more psychoactive substances by aviation personnel in a way that:

- a) constitutes a direct hazard to the user or endangers the lives, health or welfare of others; and/or
- b) causes or worsens an occupational, social, mental or physical problem or disorder.

Prohibited area. An airspace of defined dimensions, above the land areas or territorial waters of a State, within which the flight of aircraft is prohibited.

* As defined in Annex 8.

Psychoactive substances. Alcohol, opioids, cannabinoids, sedatives and hypnotics, cocaine, other psychostimulants, hallucinogens, and volatile solvents, whereas coffee and tobacco are excluded.

Radiotelephony. A form of radiocommunication primarily intended for the exchange of information in the form of speech.

Remote pilot. A person charged by the operator with duties essential to the operation of a remotely piloted aircraft and who manipulates the flight controls, as appropriate, during flight time.

Remote pilot station. The component of the remotely piloted aircraft system containing the equipment used to pilot the remotely piloted aircraft.

Remotely piloted aircraft (RPA). An unmanned aircraft which is piloted from a remote pilot station.

Remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS). A remotely piloted aircraft, its associated remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links and any other components as specified in the type design.

Repetitive flight plan (RPL). A flight plan related to a series of frequently recurring, regularly operated individual flights with identical basic features, submitted by an operator for retention and repetitive use by ATS units.

Reporting point. A specified geographical location in relation to which the position of an aircraft can be reported.

Restricted area. An airspace of defined dimensions, above the land areas or territorial waters of a State, within which the flight of aircraft is restricted in accordance with certain specified conditions.

RPA observer. A trained and competent person designated by the operator who, by visual observation of the remotely piloted aircraft, assists the remote pilot in the safe conduct of the flight.

Runway. A defined rectangular area on a land aerodrome prepared for the landing and take-off of aircraft.

Runway-holding position. A designated position intended to protect a runway, an obstacle limitation surface, or an ILS/MLS critical/sensitive area at which taxiing aircraft and vehicles shall stop and hold, unless otherwise authorized by the aerodrome control tower.

Note.— In radiotelephony phraseologies, the expression “holding point” is used to designate the runway-holding position.

Safety-sensitive personnel. Persons who might endanger aviation safety if they perform their duties and functions improperly including, but not limited to, crew members, aircraft maintenance personnel and air traffic controllers.

Signal area. An area on an aerodrome used for the display of ground signals.

Special VFR flight. A VFR flight cleared by air traffic control to operate within a control zone in meteorological conditions below VMC.

Taxiing. Movement of an aircraft on the surface of an aerodrome under its own power, excluding take-off and landing.

Taxiway. A defined path on a land aerodrome established for the taxiing of aircraft and intended to provide a link between one part of the aerodrome and another, including:

- a) *Aircraft stand taxilane.* A portion of an apron designated as a taxiway and intended to provide access to aircraft stands only.

- b) *Apron taxiway.* A portion of a taxiway system located on an apron and intended to provide a through taxi route across the apron.
- c) *Rapid exit taxiway.* A taxiway connected to a runway at an acute angle and designed to allow landing aeroplanes to turn off at higher speeds than are achieved on other exit taxiways thereby minimizing runway occupancy times.

Terminal control area. A control area normally established at the confluence of ATS routes in the vicinity of one or more major aerodromes.

Total estimated elapsed time. For IFR flights, the estimated time required from take-off to arrive over that designated point, defined by reference to navigation aids, from which it is intended that an instrument approach procedure will be commenced, or, if no navigation aid is associated with the destination aerodrome, to arrive over the destination aerodrome. For VFR flights, the estimated time required from take-off to arrive over the destination aerodrome.

Track. The projection on the earth's surface of the path of an aircraft, the direction of which path at any point is usually expressed in degrees from North (true, magnetic or grid).

Traffic avoidance advice. Advice provided by an air traffic services unit specifying manoeuvres to assist a pilot to avoid a collision.

Traffic information. Information issued by an air traffic services unit to alert a pilot to other known or observed air traffic which may be in proximity to the position or intended route of flight and to help the pilot avoid a collision.

Transition altitude. The altitude at or below which the vertical position of an aircraft is controlled by reference to altitudes.

Unmanned free balloon. A non-power-driven, unmanned, lighter-than-air aircraft in free flight.

Note.— Unmanned free balloons are classified as heavy, medium or light in accordance with specifications contained in Appendix 5.

VFR. The symbol used to designate the visual flight rules.

VFR flight. A flight conducted in accordance with the visual flight rules.

Visibility. Visibility for aeronautical purposes is the greater of:

- a) the greatest distance at which a black object of suitable dimensions, situated near the ground, can be seen and recognized when observed against a bright background;
- b) the greatest distance at which lights in the vicinity of 1 000 candelas can be seen and identified against an unlit background.

Note 1.— The two distances have different values in air of a given extinction coefficient, and the latter b) varies with the background illumination. The former a) is represented by the meteorological optical range (MOR).

Note. 2.— The definition applies to the observations of visibility in local routine and special reports, to the observations of prevailing and minimum visibility reported in METAR and SPECI and to the observations of ground visibility.

Visual line-of-sight (VLOS) operation. An operation in which the remote pilot or RPA observer maintains direct unaided visual contact with the remotely piloted aircraft.

Visual meteorological conditions. Meteorological conditions expressed in terms of visibility, distance from cloud, and ceiling, equal to or better than specified minima.

Note.— The specified minima are contained in Chapter 4.

VMC. The symbol used to designate visual meteorological conditions.

CHAPTER 2. APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES OF THE AIR

2.1 Territorial application of the rules of the air

2.1.1 The rules of the air shall apply to aircraft bearing the nationality and registration marks of a Contracting State, wherever they may be, to the extent that they do not conflict with the rules published by the State having jurisdiction over the territory overflown.

Note.— The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization resolved, in adopting Annex 2 in April 1948 and Amendment 1 to the said Annex in November 1951, that the Annex constitutes Rules relating to the flight and manoeuvre of aircraft within the meaning of Article 12 of the Convention. Over the high seas, therefore, these rules apply without exception.

2.1.2 If, and so long as, a Contracting State has not notified the International Civil Aviation Organization to the contrary, it shall be deemed, as regards aircraft of its registration, to have agreed as follows:

For purposes of flight over those parts of the high seas where a Contracting State has accepted, pursuant to a regional air navigation agreement, the responsibility of providing air traffic services, the “appropriate ATS authority” referred to in this Annex is the relevant authority designated by the State responsible for providing those services.

Note.— The phrase “regional air navigation agreement” refers to an agreement approved by the Council of ICAO normally on the advice of a Regional Air Navigation Meeting.

2.2 Compliance with the rules of the air

The operation of an aircraft either in flight or on the movement area of an aerodrome shall be in compliance with the general rules and, in addition, when in flight, either with:

- a) the visual flight rules; or
- b) the instrument flight rules.

Note 1.— Information relevant to the services provided to aircraft operating in accordance with both visual flight rules and instrument flight rules in the seven ATS airspace classes is contained in 2.6.1 and 2.6.3 of Annex 11.

Note 2.— A pilot may elect to fly in accordance with instrument flight rules in visual meteorological conditions or may be required to do so by the appropriate ATS authority.

2.3 Responsibility for compliance with the rules of the air

2.3.1 Responsibility of pilot-in-command

The pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall, whether manipulating the controls or not, be responsible for the operation of the aircraft in accordance with the rules of the air, except that the pilot-in-command may depart from these rules in circumstances that render such departure absolutely necessary in the interests of safety.

2.3.2 Pre-flight action

Before beginning a flight, the pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall become familiar with all available information appropriate to the intended operation. Pre-flight action for flights away from the vicinity of an aerodrome, and for all IFR flights, shall include a careful study of available current weather reports and forecasts, taking into consideration fuel requirements and an alternative course of action if the flight cannot be completed as planned.

2.4 Authority of pilot-in-command of an aircraft

The pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall have final authority as to the disposition of the aircraft while in command.

2.5 Problematic use of psychoactive substances

No person whose function is critical to the safety of aviation (safety-sensitive personnel) shall undertake that function while under the influence of any psychoactive substance, by reason of which human performance is impaired. No such person shall engage in any kind of problematic use of substances.

CHAPTER 3. GENERAL RULES

3.1 Protection of persons and property

3.1.1 Negligent or reckless operation of aircraft

An aircraft shall not be operated in a negligent or reckless manner so as to endanger life or property of others.

3.1.2 Minimum heights

Except when necessary for take-off or landing, or except by permission from the appropriate authority, aircraft shall not be flown over the congested areas of cities, towns or settlements or over an open-air assembly of persons, unless at such a height as will permit, in the event of an emergency arising, a landing to be made without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface.

Note.— See 4.6 for minimum heights for VFR flights and 5.1.2 for minimum levels for IFR flights.

3.1.3 Cruising levels

The cruising levels at which a flight or a portion of a flight is to be conducted shall be in terms of:

- a) flight levels, for flights at or above the lowest usable flight level or, where applicable, above the transition altitude;
- b) altitudes, for flights below the lowest usable flight level or, where applicable, at or below the transition altitude.

Note.— The system of flight levels is prescribed in the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Aircraft Operations (Doc 8168).

3.1.4 Dropping or spraying

Nothing shall be dropped or sprayed from an aircraft in flight except under conditions prescribed by the appropriate authority and as indicated by relevant information, advice and/or clearance from the appropriate air traffic services unit.

3.1.5 Towing

No aircraft or other object shall be towed by an aircraft, except in accordance with requirements prescribed by the appropriate authority and as indicated by relevant information, advice and/or clearance from the appropriate air traffic services unit.

3.1.6 Parachute descents

Parachute descents, other than emergency descents, shall not be made except under conditions prescribed by the appropriate authority and as indicated by relevant information, advice and/or clearance from the appropriate air traffic services unit.