

# ICAO Operational Data Link Working Group (OPDLWG)

June 4-6, 2024  
Santiago, Chile



High Level Status Report presented to ISPACG FIT



Federal Aviation  
Administration

# Meeting Information

- The sixth meeting of the Operational Data Link Specific Working Group of the Communications Panel joint project teams (CP-OPDLWG-JPT/06) was held at the NAV CANADA Head Office, Ottawa, Canada, from 4 to 8 December 2023.
- Ms. Shelley Bailey, Chair of the CP-OPDLWG, facilitated the discussions with the support of Project Team Leaders and the Secretary. Ms. Crystal Guseul Kim, Technical Officer of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) Section, Air Navigation Bureau, was the Secretary.
- The meeting was attended by 10 States and 7 international organizations.



# Route Clearance Messages

## UM79 Route Segment Revision:

Current UM79: “CLEARED TO (position) VIA (departure data) (en-route data)” with (departure data) being optional.

This message is associated with a common pilot error (proceeding direct to the CLEARED TO waypoint instead of loading the full route clearance). The meeting was briefed on concerns and perspective of the pilot community on the problems associated with the use of this message and potential root causes of pilot errors were discussed.



# Route Clearance Messages

The meeting agreed that the subject involves multi-faceted issues such as:

- Discrepancy between data link and voice phraseologies;
- Limitations associated with specific data link applications (ATN B1 vs FANS 1/A) or messages (UM79 vs UM80/83);
- Pilots' misinterpretation of the CPDLC message, etc.

The meeting agreed that before implementing a short-term solution, all related issues be further studied, solutions proposed, and validation trials conducted.



# Route Clearance Messages

- The meeting discussed a potential root cause of pilots reacting improperly to the UM79 route segment revision. The group also proposed addressing a common error of pilots (proceed direct to the CLEARED TO waypoint instead of loading the full route clearance) by providing additional guidance in the GOLD Manual concerning the use of RTEU-6 (UM79). The meeting was also briefed on additional concerns and perspective of the pilot community on the problems associated with the use of this message.
- Following extensive discussions, the meeting agreed that the subject involves multi-faceted issues such as: discrepancy between data link and voice phraseologies; limitations associated with specific data link applications (ATN B1 vs FANS 1/A) or messages (UM79 vs UM80/83); pilots' misinterpretation of the CPDLC message, etc. In this regard, the meeting agreed that before implementing a short-term solution, all related issues be further studied, solutions proposed, and validation trials conducted.
- In this regard, the meeting agreed to form an ah-hoc project team that would: a) define the known problems (air/ ground/ manufacturer); b) for each identify a fix or mitigation; c) make a recommendation for the flight deck display (standard for PANS-ATM and workarounds for each CPDLC application considering its limitation).



# SID, STAR and Approach Clearances

- The meeting discussed the issue of including procedures that contain a vertical profile in Route Message Elements and what such clearances allow the aircraft and pilot to do.
- The meeting proposed that additional guidance be added to the GOLD to strengthen the understanding that the route clearance elements clear the lateral flight profile only and that an appropriate vertical clearance and approach clearance is required to “activate” the vertical part of the SID, STAR and approach procedures.
- The group discussed this proposal in detail but could not reach a consensus. It was agreed that the proposal be consulted with a wider user community via the OPDLWG members nominated by IATA, CANSO, IFALPA and IFATCA.



# Draft GOLD Version 9.43 Updates

- The meeting discussed the possibility of improving readability of Chapter 1, and presented recommendations on shortening some sub-section contents in Chapter 1 and facilitating the reading/comprehension of Chapter 1.
- The meeting proposed further changes to draft GOLD version 9.4 resulting from the introduction of B2 Rev B in RTCA DO-350B/DO-351B and Eurocae ED-228B/ED-229B as well as modification to DO-352B/ED230B B2 Rev B-FANS 1A Accommodation and DO353B/ED231B B2 Rev B-B1 Backward Compatibility. The group also proposed a way forward for the completion of GOLD Second Edition.
- The meeting reviewed and made further refinement to all the proposed changes introduced in draft GOLD version 9.43, and agreed on the immediate next steps to finalize the draft GOLD 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, and identify any further changes to the proposals for amendment to Annexes and PANS, which was planned for a review by the ANC in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024.



# PBCS Project Team

- The meeting was provided with an update on the progress concerning Edition 3 of the PBCS Manual, the latest version of the document (v1.4), and the scope of remaining work for the subgroups.
- The meeting noted the progress made to the PBCS PT with appreciation to the newly appointed PT lead (Ms. Colleen Kitson, Member nominated by Australia).
- The meeting was presented with the final version of the NAT Doc 011 PBCS Monitoring and Reporting Guidance and the need for its integration into the ICAO Doc 9869 Edition 3 PBCS manual for global application.





# SATVOICE Update

- The meeting was presented with an update of the SATVOICE work program (Ref: Job card 005, task 10124 to provide support and training materials to assist States, ATSPs and Operators adopt SATVOICE technology) to rewrite the SATVOICE manual and reported on the activities of the SATVOICE project team.
- The group also provided a draft SVOM version 2.2, which incorporated improvements as a result of resolving a total of 234 comments from OPDLWG members
- The meeting agreed to adopt the definition of LRCS proposed by the DCIWG-PT-SAT. The meeting agreed that noting the level of maturity achieved to date, a final review by the OPDLWG and inter-panel coordination be conducted in parallel.



# Future Meetings

- JPT/07 – June 17-21, 2024, Montreal Canada
- JPT/08 – November 11-15, 2024, Brussels
- JPT/09 – May 5-9, 2025, Montreal (Tentative)
- OPDLWG/12 – November 17-21, 2025, Montreal (Tentative)

