International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/19 & RASG-MID/9 Meetings

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 14 – 17 February 2022)

Agenda Item 5.7 ATM-SAR

AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS

(Presented by Saudi Arabia)

SUMMARY

This paper highlights the recent achievements accomplished in Saudi Airspace Management with regard to the airspace changes process. Six main stages (coordination, planning , design, approval (Safety Risk Assessment Activities), publication & implementation and post-implementation) with different activities provide guidance and manage tools to the planned and unplanned implementation of airspace changes in Saudi airspace safely, effectively, to align air traffic management, operational needs of airspace projects

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The airspace is operationally divided into en-route and terminal airspace. ATS routes, ATS areas, special use of airspace, and instrument flight procedures are part of airspace and used to provide air traffic service.

1.2 The purpose of the airspace change process is to provide guidance and define a process to manage the planned and unplanned implementation of airspace changes in Saudi airspace effectively. This process also provides guidance for temporary airspace changes projects.

1.3 The following steps were taken into the consideration to develop the Airspace Change Process:

1) Categories of Airspace Change Project,
2) Internal and External Stakeholders Coordination,
3) Design Criteria,
4) Gaps Analysis and Impact.

2. BENEFITS

2.1 Airspace Change Process consists of activities, description, the desired outcome, and expected time of completion of an identified activity. The activities of airspace change are defined in different stages with flow charts documented as Airspace Change Manual. The benefits of airspace change process can be summarized as follows:

a) Identified activities required for airspace change in six stages.
b) Greater efficiency to execute airspace change.
c) Defined coordination for airspace change.
d) Better communication for airspace changes projects.
e) Documentation and its management.

3. AIRSPACE CHANG PROCESS

3.1 Airspace Change Process is an essential requirement for the projects related to en-route and terminal airspace. It covers activities regarding any airspace change. The main points covered in the airspace change process can be summarized as follows:

1) The Airspace Change Process is covered in six stages of any airspace change project.
2) Every stage has defined activities with the guidance for an expected time of completion.
3) Workflow is included in the airspace change process.
4) All involved departments will be identified during project coordination and planning.
5) Accountable section/personnel will be defined for all activities in the airspace change process.
6) Required templates and forms are developed and are a part of the process for standardizing the coordination.
7) Provision of feedback and consultation regarding the project is included.
8) Provision of project master plan is included for an overall view of the project.

3.2 In the airspace change process, every activity has an expected time of completion. The duration of the airspace change project may be calculated based on the total activities and size of the project. As airspace change process, any airspace change project has the following six stages to cover complete activities:

1) Coordination stage,
2) Planning stage,
3) Design stage,
4) Approval (Safety Risk Assessment Activities) stage,
5) Publication and implementation stage,
6) Post-implementation stage.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Airspace Change Process is being worked out in Saudi airspace since the fourth quarter of 2019, and the projects were completed and implemented successfully, and the results were as expected. The following projects are sample of implementation using Airspace Change process:

1) Performance Based Navigation projects implementation (OEJN, OERK, OEDF, OEMA)
2) Flexible Use of Airspace (Realignment of OERs, CDR2 routes, etc...)
3) Events (Dakar Rally, Formula One, etc...)
4) Unmanned Airspace Reservations.

5. ACTION BY THE MEETING

5.1 The meeting is invited to note the content of this paper.

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