



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization  
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

FPL/AD/MON — WP/09  
17/02/15

**FPL Ad hoc Group Missing/duplicated/erroneous Filed flight plan /Flight plan (FPL) evaluation meeting (FPL/AD/MON)**

Mexico City, Mexico, 24-26 February 2015

**Agenda Item 8: Discussion of Alternate Aerodrome issue**

**SURVEY RESULTS ON ALTERNATE AERODROME ISSUE**

(Presented by FPL Ad hoc Group Rapporteur)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> NACC Working Group meeting in 2014, a working paper from IATA presented the subject of exceptional omission of the alternate aerodrome in flight plans. This was discussed during the meeting, and the AIDC Task Force was assigned the responsibility of following up on the drafting of a regional agreement, as concluded in the meeting. As a part of this process, a survey was designed and administered to the States regarding the current practice and technical possibility of this measure, the results of which is presented in this working paper.

<b>Action:</b>	The meeting is invited to take note and comment on the results of the survey.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li><li>• Environmental Protection</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fourth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/4), Ottawa, Canada, 24 to 28 March 2014, Final report</li><li>• WP/28 of NACC/WG/4</li><li>• 1st FPL Ad hoc Group meeting minutes</li></ul>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 During the 4<sup>th</sup> NACC Working Group meeting in March of 2014, IATA presented WP/28, Destination Alternate Aerodrome Filing Exception, in which the circumstances where the alternate aerodrome in flight plans can be omitted were pointed out. This working paper led to a discussion by the meeting, and the AIDC Task Force was given the responsibility of following up on progress towards a regional agreement for this purpose. This task was subsequently delegated to the ad-hoc FPL Monitoring Group.

1.2 To determine States' possibility of supporting filing flight plans without the alternate aerodrome, during the 1<sup>st</sup> FPL Monitoring Group teleconference a survey was proposed and later distributed among the members to inform on how this field is being managed within their FIRs. This survey can be found in **Appendix A**.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The survey was answered by 7 FIRs (Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, PIARCO and United States), representing 19 States. The data can be found in **Appendix B**, in which the column '*Mandatory*' indicates if by procedure the State requires that an alternate aerodrome be filed in flight plans, and the column '*Required by FDP*' indicates if the software that processes flight plans require that this field be provided in all flight plans.

2.2 For the *Mandatory* column, those cases in which the alternate aerodrome may or may not be provided depending on certain conditions is indicated with the value **Conditioned**; in the column *Required by FDP*, those cases in which there are two systems that have different requirements (one accepts the omission, the other one doesn't) is indicated with the value **Both**, and in those cases where this does not apply is indicated with the value **N/A**.

2.3 A graph of both parameters can be seen in **Appendix C**. As can be seen, there is a significant number of States that by procedure require an alternate aerodrome to be specified, although the software has the possibility to accept the omission. Thus, there will be few rejection cases by the systems if a flight plan is sent without an alternate aerodrome, although it will be likely that the flight plan will not comply with local policy.

## 3. Conclusions and suggestions

3.1 Given the number of States that still have not provided their data, and the fact that most of the States that did are from the E/CAR region, the data is not representative of the whole NAM/CAR region. It will be necessary to complete this table with the missing data to have a better picture of the situation.

3.2 There may be two aspects to consider regarding the validation by systems: the acceptance of flight plans from the outside without the alternate aerodrome, and the validation of the alternate aerodrome for flight plans generated from within the FIR. It is possible that there be differences in the level of validation for flight plans entering the system vs generated by the system (e.g., flight plans entering the system may be validated basically for syntactical errors, but those generated also be validated by the content). This is a factor that should be noted.

## 4. Suggested actions

4.1 The meeting is invited to

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) provide the information for their FIRs, if it has not been submitted; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

**APPENDIX A**

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON FILING THE “ALTERNATIVE AERODROME” FIELD IN  
THE FPL**

State/ANSP: \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete as detailed as possible:

1. In your FIR, is it mandatory to include the alternative aerodrome in your flight plans? If not, explain the agreement under which the exclusion of the alternative aerodrome is regulated in your flight plans.

2. If the filing of the Alternative Aerodrome in flight plans is required for the Flight Plan Processor (FDP) of your automated system, please answer:

a) Indicate FDP System Provider

b) Detailed criteria/rule requested by the FDP when filing this field

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**APPENDIX B****ALTERNATE AERODROME SURVEY RESULTS**

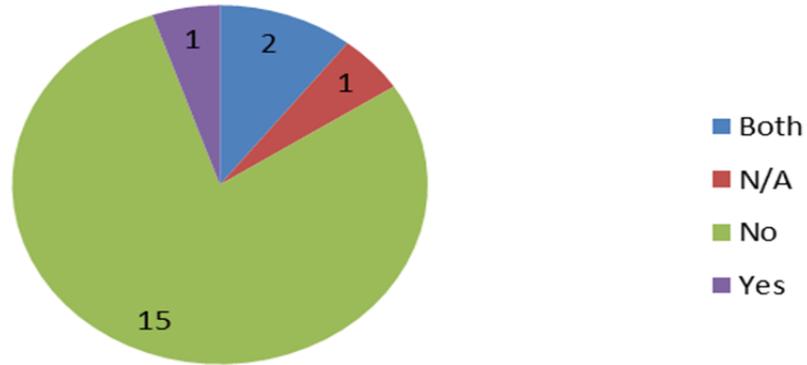
<b>State</b>	<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>Required by FDP</b>
Anguilla	No	Both
Antigua	Yes	No
Barbados	No	No
Costa Rica	Conditioned	No
Cuba	Yes	Yes
Dominica	No	Both
Dominican Republic	No	No
Grenada	No	No
Guadeloupe	Yes	No
Haiti	Yes	N/A
Martinique	Yes	No
Mexico	Yes	No
Montserrat	No	No
Nevis	No	No
PIARCO	No	No
St. Kitts	No	No
St. Lucia	No	No
St. Vicent	Yes	No
United States	Conditioned	No

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APPENDIX C

ALTERNATE AERODROME SURVEY RESULTS – GRAPHS

**Alternate Required by FDP**



**Alternate Required by Procedure**

