



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

AIM/TF/6 — WP/10
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**Sixth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Aeronautical Information Management Implementation Task Force Meeting
(AIM/TF/06)**

Mexico City, Mexico, and online, 21 – 24 August 2023

Agenda Item 9: Other Business

AIRSPACE OPTIMIZATION TASKFORCE AND AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION PUBLICATION CONSISTENCY

(CANSO IATA ICAO Free Route Airspace - CIIFRA Team)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper requests collaboration between the AIM Taskforce and the Airspace Optimization Taskforce with the CANSO-IATA-ICAO Free Route Airspace (CIIFRA) Team to develop a process aimed at harmonizing the publication and accessibility of Aeronautical Information Publications (AIPs) within the region to improve safety and efficiency.

Action:	Suggested actions are presented in Section 4.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Objective 1 – Safety• Strategic Objective 2 – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

1. Introduction

1.1 During the Second Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/RAP/02), it was agreed that the various NACC WG Taskforces would align their work programmes to support the initiatives aimed at optimizing the airspace of the CAR Region. In this regard, the Airspace Optimization Task Force (AO TF) is requesting the assistance of the Aeronautical Information Management Task Force (AIM TF) to work on issues related to the publication and access of AIPs.

1.2 The optimization of the airspace in the region depends on harmonized, timely and accurate publication of new optimized routes in the AIPs of the States/Territories/Organizations involved. This publication will lead to airlines/airspace users being able to file the new routes resulting in less fuel consumption, reduced CO2 emissions, and reduced operating costs.

2. Discussion

2.1 The optimization of the airspace in the region depends on harmonized, timely and accurate publication of new, optimized routes in the AIPs of the States/Territories/Organizations involved. This publication will lead to airlines/airspace users being able to file the new routes resulting in less fuel consumption, reduced CO2 emissions, and thus lower their operational costs. The AO TF is proposing to schedule quarterly online meetings with the AIM TF to discuss and work on issues related to airspace optimization.

2.2 There is a disparity in the Caribbean Region regarding the methodology in place to access AIP information. The process in some instances is very complex which leads to issues for the aircraft operators and may even discourage some airspace users from obtaining the information from the “official” source. This may lead to inefficiencies for users and introduces an element of risk in terms of misinformation or, in some cases, lack of safety-critical information. The meeting is asked to discuss the development of a process to harmonize AIP accessibility throughout the Region. This process should include the publication and accessibility of the State’s AIPs in the State’s language and in English.

2.3 Some States/Territories/Organizations have a cost associated with access to their AIP and it is recognized that there is a difference in the cost across the Region for access. In some instances, even the method of payment is complicated. While it is acknowledged that there is a cost associated with the production and publication of AIP information, the risk of some airspace users being unable to access safety-related information should be considered. Safety and efficiency require that all airspace users have access to current and accurate information for decision-making. The meeting is asked to discuss the eradication of direct fees for AIP access in the Region or to incorporate them into user charges to eliminate the complex payment processes currently utilized by some States/Territories/Organizations.

2.4 The following page on the NACC website provides a list of links to access the AIP information of CAR States/Territories:

<https://www.icao.int/NACC/Documents/COVID19/eAIPwebsitesAll.pdf>

2.5 Users have provided feedback that there are several links that need to be updated. Thus, the States/Territories/Organizations are asked to review and update their links to the NACC website.

3. Methodology

3.1 Proposed process and timeline:

Task	Start	End	Comments
Online meetings between AO and AIM TFs	October 2023	Continuous	Scheduled quarterly, or as required
Gather information from ANSP’s	4 September 2023	29 September 2023	AO & AIM TF Gather ANSP AIC/AIP publication methodology, stakeholder access (i.e., electronic? Mail? Etc.) and AIC/AIP fee information in the Region
AO TF and AIM TF draft a high-level proposed process to publish AIP info	October 2023	October 2023	This would create a starting point for the CDM discussions
CDM between ANSPs and Users regarding the best process to publish AIP information	01 November 2023	31 January 2024	AO & AIM TF; ANSPs and Airspace Users
Implementation of first phase of new process	February 2024	October 2024	Following CDM discussions, a realistic date in 2024 will be determined for implementation

4. Suggested Actions

4.1

The meeting is invited to Harmonize the AIP publication system in the region through:

- a) review the information provided in this Working Paper and support the drive for the harmonization of AIP accessibility in the region to enhance safety and efficiency;
- b) agree to the proposal for scheduled quarterly meetings between the AO TF and AIM TF;
- c) discuss the development of a process to harmonize AIP accessibility across the Region and work with the AO TF to achieve the objective within calendar year 2024;
- d) discuss the possibility of eliminating the direct fees associated with accessing AIP information;
- e) collaborate with the AO TF and suggest any amendment to the proposed process and timeline outlined in Section 3 of this paper;
- f) update the webpage on the NACC website that provides a link to States/Territories eAIP information; and
- g) take any other action that it deems necessary.