



**Twenty-first Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group
 (GREPECAS/21)**

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 15 to 17 November 2023

Agenda Item 3: Global and Regional Developments
3.3 CAR/SAM Air Navigation Services (ANS) Implementation Level

**ADOPTION OF THE FREQUENCY FINDER 2023 APPLICATION AS
 VHF NAV/VHF COM FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT TOOL**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper proposes that, within the framework of the *GREPECAS Project for the Regional CAR/SAM Management of the Radio Spectrum for Aviation*, the application "Frequency Finder 2023" be adopted as a management tool for VHF NAV and VHF COM frequencies, for all States/Territories and Organizations of the CAR and SAM Regions, replacing the COM 2 and COM 3 Lists, previously used.

Action:	Suggested actions are presented in Section 4.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References</i> :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the Third Virtual Meeting of the Program and Project Review Committee (PPCR) of GREPECAS (ePPCR/3), August 2021. https://www.icao.int/NACC/Documents/Meetings/2021/PPPR3/eCRPP03-Minute.pdf • Twentieth Meeting of the Caribbean-South America Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/20), November 2022. https://www.icao.int/NACC/Documents/Meetings/2022/GREPECAS20/GREPECAS20-FinalReport.pdf • Workshop on Regional Frequencies Management for the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) and the Frequency Finder Application. • https://www.icao.int/SAM/Documents/2023-RLA06901-FREQUENCYFINDER/RLA06901%20FF%202023_RESUMEN.pdf

1. Introduction

1.1 During the GREPECAS/20 Meeting (Salvador-Brazil, November 15 to 18, 2022), Decision GREPECAS/20-05 – Creation of an Ad-hoc Group for the development of a regional project for the management of aeronautical frequencies was formulated.

Meeting of the Ad-hoc Group on Regional Management of Aeronautical Frequencies

1.2 From 30 January to 2 February 2023, in compliance with Decision GREPECAS/20-05, the meeting of the Ad-hoc Group was held to develop a GREPECAS Project for the regional management CAR/SAM of the radio spectrum for aviation.

1.3 The main objective of the meeting was to propose a GREPECAS Project to improve the timely and effective management of frequencies for aviation services in the CAR and SAM Regions; in order to improve operational safety, and avoid interference and other problems related to the use of frequencies.

1.4 In the following link you can access the documents and presentations of the Meeting of the Ad-hoc Group:

<https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2023-afm.aspx>

1.5 The GREPECAS Project for the CAR/SAM Regional Management of the Radio Spectrum for Aviation was approved during the ePPRC/5 Meeting (Online, 20-21 April 2023). The following link provides access to the documents and presentations of the ePPRC/5 Meeting:

<https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2023-pprc5.aspx>

Workshops/Trainings on the "Frequency Finder 2023" application

1.6 As a programmed activity in the GREPECAS Project for the regional management CAR/SAM of the radio spectrum for aviation, from May 29 to June 2, 2023, the Workshop/Training on the Frequency Finder 2023 application was held at the SAM Office, with the participation of representatives of 14 States of the CAR and SAM Regions (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay), 1 COCESNA representative, 2 ICAO CNS Regional Officers, totaling 21 people.

1.7 Likewise, several training courses were carried out through a virtual platform (online) with the States/Territories and CAR/SAM Organizations that could not participate in the face-to-face Workshop/Training, held in Lima.

2. Analysis

2.1 The participants of the Workshops/Training recognized the importance of having a computerized tool for the management of aeronautical frequencies, which can be used for the necessary analyses for the assignment of new frequencies or for changing values.

Frequency Finder 2023 Application

2.2 The Frequency Finder 2023 application was developed with FileMaker Pro Advanced. FileMaker is a cross-platform relational database application from Claris International, a subsidiary of Apple Inc. It integrates a database engine with a graphical user interface and security features. Frequency Finder implements graphical interface with Google Earth.

2.3 Frequency assignment planning criteria are implemented according to the Manual on Radio Frequency Spectrum Requirements for Civil Aviation Volume II (Doc 9718).

2.4 The current version is available at the following link on the ICAO Frequency Spectrum Management Panel (FSMP) website:

<https://www.icao.int/safety/FSMP/Pages/Documents.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsafety%2FFSMP%2FDocuments%2FFrequencyFinder&FolderCTID=0x012000B1461A5DA8C64241AA4DE4F91CB1D9AF&View=%7BE11C4C29%2DDD83%2D4B87%2DAAAE%2D2330E3DE14D8%7D>

2.5 Representatives of the States/Territories and Organizations of the CAR and SAM Regions also recognized the need for everyone to use the application and update the information in its database.

2.6 It is necessary that each State/Territory or Organization of the CAR and SAM Regions establish Focal Points that will be responsible for internally coordinating the updating of the information in the application database, submitting the changes (deletion of existing records, modification of existing records or inclusion of new records) to the corresponding Regional Office (NACC or SAM), via email to CNS Regional Officers, who will use the Regional Offices' version of the application, to upload records to the global database.

2.7 The runtime version of the Frequency Finder 2023 application, used by users in the States/Territories or Organizations, allows the database to be downloaded to the user's computer and changes to the records are made locally, not affecting the global database that is in Montreal.

2.8 To be made the change in the global database, an "Export Submissions" must be executed using the runtime version of the users, which will generate a file (Excel) to be sent to the CNS Regional Officers, who must use the version of the Regional Offices, to execute an "Import Submissions", to upload the changes to the global database.

2.9 The Regional Officers will only proceed with the update of the global database, when they receive the file (Excel), generated by the runtime version, of the Focal Point assigned by the State/Territory or Organization.

3. Proposal

3.1 The proposal consists of the use, by all the States/Territories and Organizations of the CAR and SAM regions that are members of GREPECAS, of the Frequency Finder 2023 application, with the commitment to keep the information always updated, allowing a better management of the VHF NAV and VHF COM frequencies used in the aeronautical context.

3.2 Likewise, with the use by all of the application, it would not be necessary to publish the COM 2 and COM 3 Lists, being the direct consultation, via Frequency Finder 2023 application, a more dynamic and optimized way to obtain the information and make the necessary analyses.

3.3 In this sense, the following proposal for a GREPECAS Conclusion is formulated:

DRAFT CONCLUSION GREPECAS/21/XX		Use of the Frequency Finder 2023 application as a management tool for VHF NAV and VHF COM frequencies used in the aeronautical context	
What: That CAR/SAM States/Territories and Organizations:		Expected impact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) switch to using the Frequency Finder 2023 runtime application (or subsequent versions) as a tool for the effective management of VHF NAV and VHF COM frequencies in the aeronautical context; b) assign "FF Focal Points" to coordinate internally the updating of information; to subsequently submit them to the corresponding Regional Offices; c) forward proposed changes to the database via e-mail to the CNS Regional Officers; and d) CNS Regional Officers will only accept proposed changes, when sent by the "FF Focal Points", and will proceed with the update of the global database, using the Frequency Finder 2023 application of the Regional Offices. 		<input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interregional <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical/Operational	
Why: To have a more efficient management of the frequencies used in the aeronautical context, using a computerized tool and more effective than the methods previously used.			
When: March 2024		Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Not valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Finalized	
Who: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAR/SAM States/Territories <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO NACC and SAM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: COCESNA			

4. Suggested actions

4.1 States/Organizations are invited to:

- a) note the information presented in this working paper;
- b) consider the proposal for the use of the Frequency Finder 2023 application as a frequency management tool by the members of GREPECAS;
- c) discuss the proposed GREPECAS Conclusion of item 3.3; and
- d) discuss any other related matter that the Meeting deems necessary.