



ICAO

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**

**WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA OFFICE**

**Thirteenth Meeting of the FANS I/A Interoperability Team (SAT/FIT/13)**

**Durban, South Africa, 4-5 June 2018**

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**Agenda Item 2:           Reduction in the Use of Free-Text Messages**

*(Presented by ASECNA)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>
<p>This paper updates the meeting on the progress made in implementation of the action plan adopted by SAT/FIT12 for the reduction in the use of CPDLC free-text messages.</p>
<p><b>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): A</b></p>

**1. INTRODUCTION:**

1.1 The use of “free text” messages in CPDLC links between Air Traffic Controllers and Pilots in many reported cases is susceptible to errors that can lead to misunderstanding. The use of “free text” is recommended only in situations of absolute necessity and where preformatted messages do not exist.

1.2 Analysis of the current situation indicates that there is significant number of CPDLC free-text messages currently being used mainly by air traffic controllers and pilots instead of those allowed by the GOLD document. This situation is mainly due to the absence of preformatted messages available to the controller to be used in particular situations where it is difficult for him to easily find the required preformatted message.

1.3 In order to mitigate the risk of misinterpretation of uplink or downlink messages it was

recommended that ANSPs identify and report to ASECNA for compilation the frequently used free texts CPDLC messages for the purpose of analyzing the opportunity of formalizing their use.

1.4 For more efficiency the SAT/FIT meeting adopted an action plan with a tracker as followed

<b>Action 2</b>		<b>Reduction in the use of free text messages</b>	
<b>Team</b>		<b>Champion: ASECNA (Micheline)</b>	
		<b>Go-Team:</b>	
<b>Relevant actions</b>		<b>Action owner</b>	<b>Completion date</b>
<b>ANSPs' Focal Point and users to send to ASECNA (Go Team Lead) their applicable free text frequently used</b>		ANSP	May 2018
<b>Go Team to review and consolidate the list of free text messages frequently used in the SAT region and EUR/SAM corridor</b>		ANSP	May 2018
<b>Go team to send to IATA the consolidated list of free text messages for comments and feedback</b>		ANSP	May 2018
<b>Go Team to update and to submit to ICAO the final list for consideration in the GOLD Manual and propose amendments to Doc 7030 Regional Supplementary Procedures</b>		ANSP	May 2018

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 ASECNA as team leader have received information related to the frequently CPDLC free-text messages from three ACCs in SAT area and EUR/SAM corridor, namely Dakar, Accra and Sal.

## 2.2 CPDLC free text messages frequently used in Dakar ACC

Message text
REQUEST RELAY TO [call sign] TO REPORT ESTIMATE [position]
REQUEST RELAY TO [call sign] TO CONTACT [unit name] ON HF FREQUENCY.....
ARE YOU ABLE [level]
UNABLE DUE TO TRAFFIC
UNABLE DUE ROUTING ALTERNATIVE [level] ADVISE
CAN YOU ACCEPT [speed]
REPORT ESTIMATE [position]
TRAFFIC IS [type] [direction] [level]

## 2.3 CPDLC free text messages frequently used in Accra ACC

Message Text
VERTICAL /UPLINK MESSAGES
UNABLE
STANDBY
ROGER
AFFIRM
NEGATIVE
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT MESSAGES
NEXT DATA AUTHORITY

## 2.4 CPDLC free text messages frequently used in SAL ACC

Message Text
REQUEST POSITION REPORT
ADVISE ETA POSITION... AND SPEED
WHEN CAN YOU ACCEPT ( FL...)
CONTACT (unit name) FOR OCEANIC CLEARANCE
CLEARED TO DEVIATE UP TO (distance/direction) OF ROUTE
LOGON TO (facility designation)
DISCONNECT CPDLC THAN LOGON TO (unit designation)
UNABLE DUE TRAFFIC
CONTACT (UNIT NAME) FREQ...LOGON (unit designation)
REQUEST RELAY TO (call sign) TO CONTACT (unit name) ON FREQUENCY

**2.5** This messages have been sent to IATA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING:**

3.1 The meeting is invited to take note of the information provided in this working paper and give the way forwards;

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