



Request for Support Message

- **Safety Subject:** Briefing and provision of operational aeronautical information to air traffic controllers
 - **Origin:** European Air Navigation Service Provider
 - **Date:** 20/08/2010
 - **Distribution:** Air Navigation Service Providers, Aircraft Operators
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Request for Support message (RFS) is to gather good/best practices associated with the briefing and provision of operational aeronautical information to air traffic controllers, both before and after they assume responsibility for a particular control position.

SYNOPSIS

A European ANSP has received safety reports regarding a lack of operational information (e.g. NOTAM, airspace/procedure changes etc) available at controller working positions (CWP).

ICAO PROVISIONS

ICAO Doc 9426, Air Traffic Service Planning Manual, provides guidance on the type of facilities and information that should be provided to air traffic controllers prior to, and during, delivery of ATS, specifically:

- Part I Chapter 10 describes the "Information From Other Sources" including Met, AIS and COM that should be available to ATC.
- Part III § 3.2 states that ANSPs should locate a briefing room close to the operations room to be used for briefing sessions and for current pre-shift, individual, briefing.
- Part III § 3.3.1 states that there should be access to current weather information at each control position.
- Part III § 4.3 describes the basic accommodation and equipment requirements for Flight Information Centres.
- Part IV § 1.7.5, describes the broad list of relevant operational information that ATCOs should be conversant with prior to taking over an ATC operating position.

In addition, in the context of presentation and updating of Flight Plan and Control Data to ATC, ICAO Doc 4444, PANS ATM § 4.13.2.3 says that, "*requirements regarding **other** information to be displayed, or to be available for display, shall be specified by the appropriate authority*".

There are no other known specific requirements/standards related to the type and format of the aeronautical information that should be displayed to controllers when they are at their operating positions.

ANALYSIS

The timely and accurate presentation of operational aeronautical information is clearly safety related. ATCOs need access to it to permit them to assess situations and adjust their controlling actions accordingly. The specific briefing actions that should be taken at each unit and at each operating position vary according to local ANSP needs. Some ANSPs use verbal

briefings and/or written information to inform controllers whilst others use electronic, self-briefing facilities and display operational aeronautical information at CWP.

SUPPORT REQUESTED

- Air navigation service providers are kindly requested to provide brief details of how they disseminate operational aeronautical information to ATCOs and in particular if this is delivered/accessed via electronic self-briefing facilities and/or is presented in electronic format to controllers at CWP.
- Aircraft operators are also invited to contribute any information they feel may benefit the ANSP community and enhance operational safety mutually.

FURTHER READING

- ICAO Doc 9426, Air Traffic Service Planning Manual.
- ICAO Doc 4444, PANS ATM.

For more information contact, EUROCONTROL Safety Alerts Coordinator, Richard Lawrence at: richard.lawrence@eurocontrol.int

DISCLAIMER

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