

Call Sign Similarity Rules

Legend

Acceptable Format

Single AO Similarity Rule

Single Call Sign Similarity Rule

General Similarity Rules (Applicable to flights within a single AO schedule, i.e. AO ICAO designator remains the same)

The following similarity rules are recommended by the CSS User Group. The order within the following table is significant with the most critical rules at the top.

Name	Individual Rule Description	Special considerations for this rule	Examples		Rule ID
			Not acceptable	Acceptable	
C/S Format	Call Signs need to comply with the allowed formats (see ICAO Doc.4444 Field 7 (a), Aircraft Identification). Normal format: 3 letter ICAO AO designator followed by 1 to 4 alphanumeric characters (Flight Id).	The CSSUG have agreed that the following formats for the Flight Id should be adhered to: Pure numeric: n, nn, nnn, nnnn 1-final letter: nA, nnA, nnnA 2-final letters: nAA, nnAA	ABC 4B63, ABC F27	ABC 1, ABC 1234, ABC 23T, ABC 34TD	ZG00
Identical Final Digits	Checks for 2 identical final digits in the Flight Ids		ABC 234 vs ABC 534		AG62
Identical Bi-grams	Checks for blocks of contiguous characters which form a bigram.		ABC 224 KF vs ABC 36 KF ABC 36 KF vs ABC 528 KF		AG67
Letters To Avoid	Some single letters may be easily confused with digits and are therefore best avoided.	Single letters, eg. "O" vs "0", "I" vs "1"	ABC 8411, ABC 4600		ZG08
Anagrams	Checks for anagrams occurring within the Flight Ids		ABC 1368 vs ABC 1386 vs ABC 1638 vs ABC 1683 vs ABC 1836 vs ABD 1863 etc.		AG63
Identical Block Digits	Checks for Calls Signs which form blocks of contiguous identical characters which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the same length, or 2 versus. 3 characters, or 3 versus. 4 characters 		ABC 52 vs ABC 352 vs ABC 524 vs ABC 52L		AG64
Parallel Characters	Checks if characters composing the Call Signs form parallel alignment of identical characters.		ABC 41 vs ABC 401 vs ABC 4351		AG65
Identical Digit Roots	Checks for prefix blocks (roots) of identical digits.		ABC 57 vs ABC 573 vs ABC 5746		AG66
Identical Final Letter	Checks for Call Signs with identical final letter.		ABC 23L vs ABC 257L ABC 54L vs ABC 637L		AG68

Triple Repetition	A specific form of similarity where 3 digits are repeated within a Flight Id	With 3 repeated digits there is a risk of dropping one of the digits, which could cause confusion with a different Flight Id.	ABC 111, ABC 444		ZG09
Flight Level Values	A specific form of similarity where the Flight Id is equal to the digits used in a flight level communication.	ICAO Doc 8585 recommends that, wherever, practicable 0 and 5 should not be used as the final figure in ATC Call signs. Values 040, 050,390, 400, 410 may cause confusion with Flight levels, but this only applies to the format nnn	ABC 330, ABC 095	ABC 1320, ABC 50	ZG01
Any Runway Values	A specific form of similarity where a Flight Id is equal to the runway identifiers.	Combinations of numbers ranging from 01-36 (two digits only) followed by the letters L and R should be avoided. Only applicable to the format nn or nnA. Avoidance of the actual runway designators at departure and destination aerodromes is recommended.	ABC 36L, ABC 15, ABC 16R		ZG03