

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7110.600

**Effective Date:**  
September 15, 2012

**Cancellation Date:**  
November 14, 2012

**SUBJ:** Interim Guidance for the Transition Period to the ICAO Flight Plan 2012

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides interim guidance to facilities for handling aircraft that file special handling remarks in their International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) flight plan since not all are required to do so until November 15, 2012. For those who do not file the new format, continue to use existing procedures for flight plan handling. The information contained in this notice adds to and replaces existing guidance contained in FAA Order JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, Mission Support, and System Operations; and all associated air traffic control facilities.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee Web site at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the air traffic publications Web site at [http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/).
- 4. Guidance.** During the ICAO Flight Plan 2012 transitional period of September 15, 2012, to November 14, 2012, the HOST/ERAM systems will accept ICAO flight plans using the current format and flight plans using the ICAO 2012 format. The following are for the transitional period:
  - a. Lifeguard/MEDEVAC.** Pilots engaged in life critical medical flights may identify themselves as either "Lifeguard" or "MEDEVAC" during the transition period. Use of either of these call signs is a request for priority handling. Air traffic controllers must use whichever term the pilot uses on initial call during any radio communication with the aircraft.
  - b. HOSP/AIR EVAC.** Aircraft may file "HOSP" or "AIR EVAC" in Reasons for Special Handling (STS/) in Item 18 of the ICAO flight plan. Pilots will use normal call signs when filing "HOSP." Military flights will continue to use "EVAC." These flights are given priority handling only when requested by the pilot.
  - c. Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) Eligibility.** Non-RVSM aircraft filed as "Lifeguard" or "MEDEVAC" are approved exceptions to operate in RVSM airspace.
- 5. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Terminal, En Route and Oceanic, System Operations, and Mission Support; the Office of ATO Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.
- 6. Background.** This notice addresses changes to ICAO Document 4444, Air Traffic Management. Filer notification will be accomplished through established procedures.



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Air Traffic Organization

August 16, 2012  
Date Signed