

# GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM 01-02

October 25-26, 2001

## Recommendation Document

**Subject:** Issue with use of "ABxxx" fixes. This issue was brought to my attention by an MD11 captain with Federal Express.

**Background/Discussion:** Charting of fixes spelled "ABxxx" could present the opportunity for aircrew confusion or navigation error. When an FMS aircraft is given "direct to" a fix/waypoint/navaid, the FMS asks the pilot if he/she wants "ABEAM" points shown. If this is desired and selected, all fixes along the aircraft's route between its present position and the fix/waypoint/navaid being flown toward are changed and depicted as "ABxxx" fixes. If DAL were between the present point and the point cleared-to, a new point would be created and depicted on the pilot's FMS display as ABDAL.

**Recommendation:** I recommend that fixes beginning with the characters "AB" be deleted from the list of available fixes, and recalled where already in use. There are currently 108 published fixes of this type, such as ABDAL, located abeam Morgantown, West Virginia (DAL is Dallas, Texas). I further recommend that ICAO be advised of this issue so that they may pursue similar action.

**Submitted by:** Terry Mahaffey  
National Air Traffic Controllers Association  
Enroute RNAV/GPS  
**Phone:** 202-267-9247

---

**01-02 MEETING:** Mr. Terry Mahaffey, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, submitted this issue. Mr. Mahaffey stated that the charting of fixes spelled "ABxxx" could present the opportunity for aircrew confusion or navigation error. He stated that when an FMS aircraft is given "direct to" a fix/waypoint/navaid, the FMS asks the pilot if he/she want "ABEAM" points shown. If this desired and selected, all fixes along the aircraft's route between its present position and the fix/waypoint/navaid being flown toward are changed and depicted as "ABxxx" fixes. If DAL were between the present point and the point cleared-to, a new point would be created and depicted on the pilot's FMS display as ABDAL.

Mr. Mahaffey recommends that fixes beginning with the character "AB" be deleted from the list of available fixes, and recalled where already in use. There are currently 108 published fixes of this type, such as ABDAL, located abeam Morgantown, West Virginia (DAL is Dallas, Texas). He further recommends that ICAO be advised of this issue so that they can pursue similar action. AVN-100 responded that they have no new AB fixes and will not issue new ones.

**ACTION:** Mr. Dick Powell will generate a list of AB fixes and pursue changes.

---

**02-01 MEETING:** Mr. Dick Powell reported that the fixes are in the process of being replaced with new fixes. He reported that all of the fixes have been identified and all fixes with "AB" are being removed from the database. **CLOSED**

---