

All NATMAC Representatives

1 April 2010

NATMAC CONSULTATIVE LETTER

Dear Colleagues

WITHDRAWAL OF CIVIL AVIATION PUBLICATION (CAP 550) – RANDOM FLIGHT PLAN AFTN ADDRESS BOOK AND CAP 555 – OVERSEAS NON-SCHEDULED FLIGHT CLEARANCE GUIDE

Under the terms of the licence agreement between the CAA and NATS relating to the provision of the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) and related works, NATS are required to publish CAP 550, Random Flight Plan AFTN Address Book, and CAP 555, Overseas Non-scheduled Flight Clearance Guide, on behalf of the CAA.

Both CAP 550 and CAP 555 are of an informative nature. ICAO prescribes neither of these documents though CAP 555 is published on behalf of the DfT. The content of each document is sourced from within individual State AIPs that NATS monitor and use to generate amendments.

Printed copies of both of these CAPs are available to subscribers, whilst an electronic version of the document is available on a CD or on-line (the latter method being free of charge).

With CAP 550 and CAP 555 now available on-line, subscriptions to both the paper and CD versions of these two documents have steadily reduced over a number of years. Similarly, with many States now making their national AIP freely available as an on-line resource, the use of both documents as a primary source of information has diminished.

NATS have indicated that demand for paper copies of these two documents has reduced to such a level that to continue to produce both in paper and on CD is untenable without considering a significant increase in subscription charges.

CAA (DAP) believes that there is a continued need for the information to be made available to industry, though distribution can be achieved by more cost effective means. However, on the grounds that CAA has no direct input to the content of either CAP 550 or CAP 555, we do question the need for these two documents to continue life in their current format, as CAPs, rather than as an independent (non CAA) information set.

Discussions with DfT have elicited their agreement that with the number of on-line resources available, the continued requirement for CAP 555 becomes questionable,

and in lieu of a complete withdrawal of the document, DfT will support the concept of an information resource.

CAA therefore proposes, with the agreement of both DfT and NATS, that from the 30th July 2010:

- CAP 550 and CAP 555 cease to exist as individual CAA Publications.
- NATS make the information available online via the AIS website.

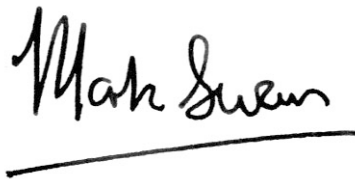
You are invited to comment on this proposal in relation to any anticipated impact that it may have on your organisation and its ability to operate. For comparison, the NATS online resource for both the Flight plan address book (CAP550) and the Non Scheduled Flight Clearance Guide (CAP555) are available through the Links page of the NATS/AIS website:

CAP550 - [Flight plan address book](#)

CAP555 - [Overseas flight clearance guide](#)

The deadline for responses is 30th June 2010. The DAP point of contact for this consultation is Mr. Steven Hill, Head of the AIM Regulation Section, telephone 0207 453 6570.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Swan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mark Swan
Director