

**Government/Industry Operational Concept
for the Evolution of Free Flight**

**Addendum 2:
Candidate Recommendations on
Near Term Procedural Enhancements
1998-2002**

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Foreword

This report was approved by the RTCA Free Flight Steering Committee on August 19, 1998.

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- coalescing aviation system user and provider technical requirements in a manner that helps government and industry meet their mutual objectives and responsibilities;
- analyzing and recommending solutions to the system technical issues that aviation faces as it continues to pursue increased safety, system capacity and efficiency;
- developing consensus on the application of pertinent technology to fulfill user and provider requirements, including development of minimum operational performance standards for electronic systems and equipment that support aviation; and
- assisting in developing the appropriate technical material upon which positions for the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union and other appropriate international organizations can be based.

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Section 1

Introduction

This document supplements the government and industry consensus on Free Flight operational concepts with candidate selections of procedural enhancements which may be made to the National Airspace System (NAS) in the near term timeframe of 1998-2002. RTCA Task Force 3 recognizes that there are procedural changes that can be introduced to provide benefit to the NAS, and to enhance system safety. At the same time, these procedural changes are not associated with changes to systems or the introduction of new capabilities. These are typically changes to how operations are performed today, that make better use of the tools and capabilities that are currently available to the users/service providers. These changes are collectively called “procedural enhancements”.

1.1 Background

A number of procedural enhancements were documented in the original 1995 report, *The Final Report of RTCA Task Force 3: Free Flight Implementation*. In that report, RTCA Task Force 3 defined the Free Flight concept and outlined a series of recommended actions that would help progress toward Free Flight. These recommendations were designed to provide benefit to the NAS in three timeframes: the “near term”, which was defined in the Task Force 3 report as 1995-1997; the “mid term”, defined as 1998-2000; and the “far term”, defined as 2001 and beyond.

Since the original report, some of the activities to address the recommendations have been implemented, and a number of others are underway. The RTCA *Free Flight Action Plan*, developed to support the Task Force 3 report recommendations, has recently been updated (April, 1998) to reflect the status and progress of the activities. Several other NAS initiatives (in particular Free Flight Phase 1, or FFP1) have also begun, targeting improvements to the NAS in the 1998-2002 timeframe, which is now considered the redefined “near term” timeframe.

Many of the near term recommendations of the Task Force 3 report and activities from the Action Plan are procedural changes that should continue to be considered in the redefined “near term” timeframe. These procedural enhancements can provide rapid benefit to the NAS, can be made with relatively little expenditure of program funds or resources, and are fundamentally independent of the other near term NAS initiatives, such as FFP1. Additionally, although progress has been made on many Task Force 3 recommendations (procedural and otherwise), the list of recommendations has not been expanded to include new ideas. Therefore, this document outlines the Action Plan recommendations that are near