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User Requirements for Terrain and Obstacle Data

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FOREWORD

This report was prepared by Special Committee 193 (SC-193) and EUROCAE Working Group 44 (WG-44) and approved by the RTCA Program Management Committee (PMC) on August 3, 2005.

RTCA, Incorporated is a not-for-profit corporation formed to advance the art and science of aviation and aviation electronic systems for the benefit of the public. The organization functions as a Federal Advisory Committee and develops consensus-based recommendations on contemporary aviation issues. RTCA's objectives include but are not limited to:

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.

The organization's recommendations are often used as the basis for government and private sector decisions as well as the foundation for many Federal Aviation Administration Technical Standard Orders.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides guidance for data gathering by data originators, for data processing by data integrators, for implementation by system designers, and for end use by the aviation community (e.g. air carriers, air traffic services, procedure designers). It is supplemental to the data processing requirements included in EUROCAE ED-76/RTCA DO-200A.

The minimum set of user requirements applicable to terrain and obstacle data, from creation through the entire life cycle, are defined. Numerical requirements for source data necessary to accommodate the most stringent known application requirements are also defined. Collectively these define a set of requirements that satisfy this universal set of applications. It should be noted that the numeric requirements have been derived solely based on user requirements and not on the basis of acquisition cost. Types of errors associated with terrain and obstacles are identified and some means by which these errors may be mitigated are suggested. The integrity, accuracy, and resolution requirements specified in this document and the completeness of resulting databases are not necessarily sufficient for primary means of navigation.

The following four areas of applicability have been defined: the world, the terminal maneuvering area, the CAT II or III Operation Area, and the aerodrome. The requirements for accuracy, integrity and resolution have been tailored to meet these needs.

Guidance for certification or approval of systems or procedures that use terrain and obstacle databases is also provided. It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that the data meet the requirements for its intended application. The requirements stated in this document address the areas viewed by industry to be of most importance to certification. These areas cover database attributes including accuracy, resolution and integrity. The document also describes the creation and maintenance steps for databases and highlights the certification-related verification, validation and traceability requirements in those steps.

The document is organized as follows:

Section 1 provides background information regarding the purpose for developing terrain and obstacle data requirements.

Section 2 defines the terms terrain and obstacle, which is necessary to distinguish between features in an aviation database.

Section 3 defines the minimum set of attributes for terrain and obstacle databases.

Section 4 defines the spatial extent of three areas for obstacles and four areas for terrain and the unique data requirements of each of these areas.

Section 5 provides guidance related to data quality management.

Section 6 provides guidance to data suppliers and certification authorities.

Appendix A is a glossary of relevant terms.

Appendix B lists important abbreviations and acronyms.

Appendix C provides an overview of the types of applications that may make use of terrain and obstacle databases.

Appendix D provides useful information related to data quality assessments.

Appendix E provides basic information on remote sensing technologies used in the generation of terrain databases.

Appendix F is a list of references.

Appendix G lists the membership of the committee that developed this document.

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REVISIONS to RTCA DO-276/EUROCAE ED-98

The following list is a summary of the major changes made to RTCA DO-276 /EUROCAE ED-98 for the DO-276A and ED-98A versions.

A number of editorial errors, mainly reported by the users of the previous version of the document, or found during the update of the document were corrected.

The reference list was updated and amended.

RTCA DO-291/EUROCAE ED-119, Interchange Standards for Terrain, Obstacle, and Aerodrome Mapping Data was added to the reference list.

The definitions of obstacles and terrain were changed to harmonize with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.

The use of EGM96 as the gravity model for the vertical reference system was changed to a requirement to harmonize with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.

The use of geographical coordinates rather than projected coordinates was made a requirement.

Several changes were made to accommodate for Amendment 33 of ICAO Annex 15. This includes definitions and the adoption of quality parameters for Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Date, time stamp, effectivity, lighting, and marking attributes were added to reflect user requirements and to ensure compliance with the ISO 19000 series.

User feedback was added to the list of possible verification and validation methods.

All definitions and feature or attribute names as well as data content were revised to harmonize with RTCA DO-291/EUROCAE ED-119.

The Glossary was revised to harmonize with RTCA DO-291/EUROCAE ED-119 and the latest versions of ICAO Annexes.

The membership list was updated.

This summary of revisions was included.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	PURPOSE AND SCOPE.....	1
1.1	Introduction.....	1
1.2	Scope.....	1
1.3	Definition of Terms.....	1
1.4	Application of This Document.....	1
1.5	Assumptions.....	2
1.6	Section Synopsis.....	2
1.7	Comments.....	4
2	TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE DATA DEFINITIONS.....	5
2.1	Introduction.....	5
2.2	Definitions.....	5
3	TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE DATA ATTRIBUTES.....	7
3.1	Introduction.....	7
3.2	Terrain Data Attributes.....	7
3.2.1	Area of Coverage.....	9
3.2.2	Data Source Identifier.....	9
3.2.3	Acquisition Method.....	10
3.2.4	Post Spacing.....	10
3.2.5	Horizontal Reference System.....	10
3.2.6	Horizontal Resolution.....	10
3.2.7	Horizontal Accuracy.....	11
3.2.8	Horizontal Confidence Level.....	11
3.2.9	Horizontal Position Data.....	11
3.2.10	Elevation.....	11
3.2.11	Database Units.....	11
3.2.12	Elevation Reference.....	12
3.2.13	Vertical Reference System.....	12
3.2.14	Vertical Resolution.....	12
3.2.15	Vertical Accuracy.....	12
3.2.16	Vertical Confidence Level.....	13
3.2.17	Surface Type.....	13
3.2.18	Recorded Surface.....	13
3.2.19	Penetration level.....	13
3.2.20	Known Variations.....	13
3.2.21	Integrity.....	14
3.2.22	Date and Time Stamps.....	14
3.3	Obstacle Data Attributes.....	14
3.3.1	Area of Coverage.....	15
3.3.2	Data Source Identifier.....	15
3.3.3	Horizontal Position Data.....	15
3.3.4	Horizontal Reference System.....	16

3.3.5	Horizontal Resolution	16
3.3.6	Horizontal Extent	16
3.3.7	Horizontal Accuracy	16
3.3.8	Horizontal Confidence Level	16
3.3.9	Elevation	16
3.3.10	Height	17
3.3.11	Database Units	17
3.3.12	Vertical Reference System	17
3.3.13	Vertical Resolution	17
3.3.14	Vertical Accuracy	18
3.3.15	Vertical Confidence Level	18
3.3.16	Obstacle Type	18
3.3.17	Integrity	18
3.3.18	Date and Time Stamps	18
3.3.19	Effectivity	19
3.3.20	Status	19
3.3.21	Lighting	19
3.3.22	Marking	19
3.3.23	Geometry	19
4	NUMERICAL REQUIREMENTS	21
4.1	Introduction	21
4.2	Areas of Coverage	21
4.3	Area 1 – The World	22
4.4	Area 2 – The Terminal Airspace	23
4.4.1	Area 2 Obstacles	23
4.4.2	Area 2 Terrain	25
4.5	Area 3 – CAT II and III Operation Area	26
4.6	Summary of Numerical Terrain and Obstacle Data Requirements	27
4.6.1	Obstacle Data Numerical Requirements	27
4.6.2	Terrain Data Numerical Requirements	28
4.7	Supplemental Terrain Requirements for Aerodrome Mapping	28
5	QUALITY MANAGEMENT	31
5.1	Introduction	31
5.2	Traceability	31
5.3	Quality Assurance	31
5.4	Errors	31
5.4.1	Types of Errors	31
5.4.2	Errors that Affect the Confidence Level of a Database	32
5.4.3	Accuracy and Precision	32
5.4.4	Resolution	32
5.4.5	Timeliness Effects and Currency Errors	32
5.4.6	Semantic Errors	33
5.5	System Integrity	33
6	CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES	35

6.1	Terrain Database Generation Phases	35
6.1.1	Data Collection.....	35
6.1.2	Mathematical Transformations	36
6.1.3	Database Assembly	37
6.1.4	Verification	37
6.1.5	Validation.....	37
6.2	Obstacle Database Generation Phases.....	38
6.2.1	Data Collection.....	38
6.2.2	Mathematical Transformations	38
6.2.3	Database Assembly	39
6.2.4	Verification	39
6.2.5	Validation.....	39
6.3	Maintenance of Databases.....	40
APPENDIX A	: GLOSSARY	A-1
APPENDIX B	: ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	B-1
APPENDIX C	: APPLICATIONS OF TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE DATABASES	C-1
C.1	Introduction	C-1
C.2	Background	C-1
C.3	List of Selected Terrain and Obstacle Applications.....	C-4
C.4	Terrain Awareness and Warning System (TAWS)	C-4
C.5	Off-Airway “Drift-Down” Protection	C-5
C.6	Emergency Landing Site Location Selection	C-5
C.7	Synthetic vision	C-6
C.8	Minimum Safe Altitude Warning (MSAW).....	C-7
C.9	Databases for Use by the Instrument Procedure Designer	C-8
C.10	Engine-Out Procedure Analysis.....	C-8
C.11	Simulation/Flight Crew Familiarization in Terminal Airspace	C-9
APPENDIX D	: TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE CONSIDERATIONS	D-1
D.1	Reference System Considerations	D-1
D.2	Errors	D-1
D.3	Random Errors	D-1
D.4	Systematic Errors	D-1
D.5	Blunders.....	D-1
D.6	Error Assessment.....	D-2
D.7	Confidence Level of a Database.....	D-2
D.8	Accuracy and Precision	D-3
D.9	Resolution.....	D-4

APPENDIX E	: REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE GENERATION OF THE TERRAIN DATABASE	E-1
E.1	Summary	E-1
E.2	Sensor Types	E-1
E.3	Stereo Aerial Photography	E-1
E.4	Stereo Satellite Images	E-2
E.5	Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR)	E-2
E.6	Light Detection and Ranging	E-4
E.7	Digital Ortho-Rectified Imagery	E-5
APPENDIX F	: REFERENCES	F-1
F.1	Main Reference Documents	F-1
F.2	Other References	F-1
APPENDIX G	: MEMBERSHIP LIST	G-1

TABLE OF TABLES

Table 3-1 Terrain Attributes	9
Table 3-2 Obstacle Attributes	15
Table 4-1 Obstacle Data Requirements for Area 1 – The World.....	23
Table 4-2 Terrain Data Requirements for Area 1 – The World.....	23
Table 4-3 Obstacle Data Requirements for Area 2	25
Table 4-4 Terrain Data Requirements for Area 2	25
Table 4-5 Terrain Data Requirements for Area 3	27
Table 4-6 Summary of Obstacle Data Requirements.....	27
Table 4-7 Summary of Terrain Data Requirements.....	28
Table 4-8 Terrain Data Numerical Requirements to Support Aerodrome Mapping.....	29

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 Terrain and Obstacle Data Flow.....	2
Figure 1-2 Application of This Standard Within the Terrain and Obstacle Data Flow	4
Figure 2-1 Terrain Definition.....	5
Figure 2-2 Obstacle Definition	6
Figure 3-1 Example of a Terrain Database Represented as a DEM.....	7
Figure 3-2 DEM of Fixed Grid Elevations Annotated with Vertical Obstruction Data.....	8
Figure 4-1 Areas of Coverage.....	22
Figure 4-2 Area 2 Obstacles (See ICAO Annex 15).....	24
Figure 4-3 Areas 1 and 2 for Terrain (See ICAO Annex 15).....	26
Figure 4-4 Exclusion of Interior Region for Aerodrome Mapping.....	29
Figure C-1 Simplified Version of One Possible Advanced CNS Cockpit Architecture.....	C-2
Figure D-1 Accuracy and Precision	D-3
Figure E-1 Concept of Stereo Aerial Photography	E-2
Figure E-2 Concept of Operations for IFSAR System.....	E-3
Figure E-3 IFSAR Interferometric ORI and DEM Products	E-4
Figure E-4 DTM, DORI, 3D Objects, Textures, and Metadata for 3D Scene Visualization.....	E-5

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1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

This document was written to identify requirements for terrain and obstacle data:

Data originators require the quality characteristics to be defined, including specific numerical values in order to provide data for use in applications. Appendix C provides some illustrative application examples.

Certification authorities and data users (see [Figure 1-1](#)) require information to ensure that terrain and obstacle data satisfy the intended applications.

1.2 Scope

This document defines the minimum user requirements applicable to the origination and publication of terrain and obstacle data from creation through the entire life cycle of the data. Data processing shall be accomplished in accordance with EUROCAE ED-76/RTCA DO-200A. This document provides a minimum list of attributes associated with the terrain and obstacle data and a description of associated errors that may need to be addressed.

The numerical values in Section 4 are defined to accommodate the most stringent known application requirements, and not on a basis of acquisition cost. The integrity, accuracy, and resolution requirements specified in this document and the completeness of resulting databases are not necessarily sufficient for primary means of navigation.

Additionally, guidance material is provided to assist the certification process of an application using terrain and obstacle data.

Land use/land cover database requirements have not been specifically addressed in this document.

1.3 Definition of Terms

This document contains specific definitions for terrain and obstacles (see section 2.2). A glossary of terms used in this document is provided in Appendix A. A full appreciation of these terms (e.g. resolution, post spacing...) is critical to understanding this document.

1.4 Application of This Document

[Figure 1-1](#) describes the data flow that contributes to the design and development of terrain and obstacle databases.

As a first step, each individual State, appropriate delegated agencies or private organisations originate the data. It is beyond the scope of this document to mandate requirements on the originators of such data (derived from topographic survey or satellite imagery...) as it is understood that they already follow clearly identified professional standards, specific requirements and methodologies. Nevertheless, it is recognised that *quality* requirements derived from the system designer or the end user specifications may be equally applicable to the data originator.