

## Policy Statement Number: 28

### Subject: ICAO Location Indicators; 3 letter Designators and Telephony Designators

**Effective date of Implementation:** 14 December 2007

**ASSI File Reference:** UK/X/J/86/02 – Policy Statements

#### Rationale:

ICAO Docs 7910 and 8585 establish ICAO policies with regard to issue and amendment of location indicators, 3 letter designators and telephony designators.

Responsibility for the day-to-day application of this policy in the UK rests with NATS Ltd, Civil Aviation Communications Centre (CACC). Application to ICAO for the issue, amendment or cancellation of these designators on behalf of the OTs and their operators is undertaken by NATS CACC in co-ordination with ASSI.

This policy statement establishes ASSI policy in line with ICAO and the policy adopted by the UK as the signatory state.

#### Policy Statements:

a) *General*

Assignment of an ICAO four-letter Location Indicator, three-letter designator or Telephony Designator does not confer ownership of such codes or designators to the aerodrome or aircraft operator to which they are assigned. They are not to be considered as tradeable assets, and are to be cancelled when the requirement for their use ends.

b) *Location indicators*

Location indicators will normally only be issued to those geographical locations connected to the Aeronautical Fixed Service. However, indicators may be issued to units which are not directly connected, provided arrangements are established to ensure that messages from and to the address are input to, and forwarded from, a suitable address location.

c) *3 letter designators*

(1) 3 letter designators will normally only be issued to:

- (i) aircraft operating agencies engaged in air transport operations in accordance with an Aircraft Operators Certificate (AOC) and considered to have a need for an exclusive designator;
- (ii) aircraft operating agencies engaged in air transport (not in accordance with an AOC) or aerial work operations that can demonstrate a need for an exclusive designator;
- (iii) Government authorities and services providing air navigation and communication services for international aviation;
- (iv) organisations, other than government organisations, providing services for international civil aviation.

- (2) These designators should reflect, to the maximum extent practicable, the name of the aircraft operating agency or its Telephony Designator, or the aeronautical service provided.

*Note 1* Designators for governmental organisations which provide aviation facilities and services will be allocated in the Y series; those providing air traffic services will be allocated in the Z series (except ZXA-ZXZ). Normally, no more than one three-letter or Telephony Designator will be assigned to each aircraft operating agency, aeronautical authority or service.

*Note 2* To avoid confusion with AFS signals and ATC procedures the following combinations of letters will not be permitted in 3-letter designators: CZ, ZC, NN, QTA, SVC, PAN, SOS. To avoid potential AFTN routing problems, no allocation of aircraft operating agency designators will be included in the Y and Z series; no allocation of 3-letter designators will be made in the Y series and ZAA-ZIZ, ZOA-ZUZ and ZYA-ZZY groups.

d) *Telephony Designators:*

- (1) Telephony Designators will normally only be issued to AOC holders. If a non-AOC holder wishes to have a designator due to particular circumstances, then their case will be judged on its merits. Telephony Designators will not, under any circumstances, be assigned to individuals for personal use.
- (2) Telephony Designators may be used as part of the radiotelephony callsign in accordance with ICAO Radiotelephony Procedures (Annex 10, Volume 2) and should resemble, as far as possible, the name of the aircraft operating agency or its function. Ideally, there should be a correlation between the three-letter designator, the Telephony Designator and the name of the aircraft operating agency or its function.
- (3) In order to reduce the length of R/T transmissions, Telephony Designators should be brief and comprise if possible one word of two or three syllables. It should not exceed two words. The Telephony Designator should be easily and phonetically pronounceable.
- (4) The use by aircraft operators of Telephony Designators relating to an air traffic service unit is not recommended and should be avoided.