

October 2015 Changes

Are you ready?

The FAA has two surprises in store for us:

- Flight Watch on 122.0 goes away
- Domestic format flight plans end

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As Douglas Adams advises:

Don't panic.

Flight Watch Consolidation

The weather-only “Flight Watch” service on 122.0MHz goes silent on October 1st, 2015.

The functions are being folded into existing FSS services, generally available on 122.2MHz or dedicated frequencies in many areas.

The FAA hopes that in-flight weather sources (FIS-B, XM) will limit need.

ICAO Flight Plans

The familiar domestic flight plan format is ending, and ICAO flight plans will be required starting October 1st, 2015.

What does this mean to you?

- Use on-line sources (fltplan.com, 1800wxbrief.com) to help with filing.
- Find out about the new equipment codes.
- Expect confusion as ATC adopts new codes.

ICAO: Type of Flight

I – IFR, V – VFR, Y – IFR start, Z – VFR start

Followed by “G” for General Aviation

If flight changes type (Y or Z), then include changeover point in route using “VFR” or “IFR” after fix defining new segment.

ICAO: Equipment Codes

ICAO Document 8643 – fewer distinct names

/LMH for wake turbulence category

-SBGDF communications and navigation

/CSLU1 transponder type

Examples:

C172/L-SF/C

Basic 172

BE36/L-SBG/CU1

Bonanza GPS ADS-B

ICAO: Airports

Four-letter designator if one exists: KASH

Use ZZZZ and DEP/ or DEST/ or ALTN/ in remarks if no four-letter designator exists:
DEST/6B6

ICAO: Altitudes and Airspeeds

Altitude is Axxx or Fxxx for altitude in hundreds of feet (e.g., A080) or flight level (F190), or VFR.

Airspeed is Nxxxx (e.g., N0120 for 120 knots).

Other codes exist for metric values (meters, kph), but do not use metric terms with the FAA.

Can change at fix: BAF/A060N0140