



LITHUANIA

STATE ENTERPRISE "ORO NAVIGACIJA"
AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICE
Rodūnio kelias 2, Airport, LT-02188 Vilnius
TEL: +370 5 219 4613, FAX: +370 5 219 4614
AFS: EYVNYOYX, www.ans.lt, E-mail: ais@ans.lt

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A17. EUROPEAN FLIGHT PLANNING REGULATIONS.

1. INTRODUCTION

In July 2006 the European Commission adopted a new Regulation (**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1033/2006 of 4 July 2006, OJ L 186, 7.7.2006, p. 46**¹) related to flight planning. In particular the Regulation specifies the responsibilities of the Aircraft Operator, the flight plan Originator (if not the Aircraft Operator) and the European Union member States with regard to the Integrated Initial Flight Plan Processing System (IFPS) and Air Traffic Services (ATS).

The Regulation, which is legally binding, is published in the Official Journal of the European Union (see link in footnote) and is primarily applicable to all IFR/GAT flights taking off from within the airspace for which the member states of the European Union (see Appendix A), are responsible. It should also be noted that some European countries which are not members of the European Union have signed agreements with the European Community whereby they are also included within the area of applicability of this regulation.

The overall objective of the Regulation is to ensure the consistency of flight plan data amongst the parties mentioned above prior to the delivery of the first ATC clearance.

The European Commission Regulation No 1033/2006 will apply from the **1st January 2009**.

This AIC is intended to draw attention to the European Commission Regulation No 1033/2006 and to the related guidance material, described in the following paragraphs.

2. EUROPEAN COMMISSION REGULATION No 1033/2006

It is essential that Aircraft Operators and others engaged in the process of flight plan creation and submission consult the whole text of the Regulation directly (see link in footnote).

The following extracts from the Regulation are provided in order to highlight some of the more significant responsibilities of Aircraft Operators and Flight Plan Originators.

Article 3

4. The originator, when not being the operator or the pilot, shall ensure that the conditions of acceptance of a flight plan and any necessary changes to these conditions as notified by IFPS are made available to the operator or the pilot who has submitted the flight plan.

5. The operator shall ensure that the conditions of acceptance of a flight plan and any necessary changes thereto as notified by IFPS to the originator are incorporated into the planned flight operation and communicated to the pilot.

6. The operator shall ensure prior to operation of the flight that the content of the initial flight plan correctly reflects the operational intentions.

3. SPECIFICATION

In order to provide additional details and an indication as to how the provisions of the European Commission's regulation No 1033/2006 may be complied with, a communication from the European Commission was published in the Official Journal of the European Union² by which the 'EUROCONTROL Specification for the Initial Flight Plan' is recognised as a Community Specification and therefore as a means of compliance with the Interoperability Regulation No 552/2004 and with the European Commission Regulation No 1033/2006.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:186:0046:0050:EN:PDF>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:290:0007:0007:EN:PDF>

The Specification can be downloaded from the following location:
(http://www.eurocontrol.int/ses/public/standard_page/sk_community_specs_completed.html).

This Specification makes frequent reference to the 'IFPS User Manual' available as part of the "CFMU Basic Handbook" (http://www.cfm.eurocontrol.int/cfmu/public/site_preferences/display_library_list_public.html).

In order to improve ease of reference, the Specification contains, in appendix, a set of traceability tables which provide a cross-reference between, on the one hand, the European Commission's Regulation No 1033/2006 and the Specification, on the other hand, the Specification and the relevant sections of the IFPS User Manual.

3. FURTHER INFORMATION

European Union

Requests for hard copies of the Regulation can be submitted via:
http://bookshop.europa.eu/eGetRecords?Template=en_index&indLang=E

Additional information may be requested via:
e-mail: eurlex-helpdesk-online@publications.europa.eu
or
e-mail: TREN-AIR-TRANSPORT@ec.europa.eu

EUROCONTROL

Requests for copies of the Specification or IFPS User Manual should be addressed to:
EUROCONTROL Publications Centre,
Rue de la Fusée, 96
B-1130 Brussels
Belgium.
e-mail: publications@eurocontrol.int
Tel: +32 2 729 4715
Fax: +32 2 729 5149

Detail enquiries concerning the content of the documents should be addressed to:
e-mail: cfmu.customersupport@eurocontrol.int

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Appendix AEuropean Union Member States³

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom

³ It should also be noted that some European countries which are not members of the European Union have signed agreements with the European Community whereby they are also included within the area of applicability of this regulation.