

SUBJECT : PLAN TO WITHDRAW CERTAIN RADIO NAVIGATION AIDS FROM SERVICE IN THE PERIOD UP TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

This AIC replaces AIC A 17/22.

1. Consequences on the implementation of performance-based navigation on radio navigation aid networks

The Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2018/1048 of 18 July 2018 laying down airspace usage requirements and operating procedures concerning performance-based navigation (PBN regulation) defines the terms and conditions associated with the deployment of performance-based navigation (PBN).

In particular, the regulatory requirement for exclusive use of the PBN from 6 June 2030 means that DSNA will eventually only keep in service the radio navigation aids (ILSs, VORs, DMEs) necessary for air traffic management in the sizing case of a wide-scale loss of GNSS with no possibility of circle-to-land/VPT.

The implementation of the ILS network defined for this purpose at controlled civil aerodromes is almost complete.

The DSNA plan to rationalise the VOR network and withdraw the NDB network, both en-route and at controlled civil aerodromes, is launched. NDBs are also withdrawn of service at uncontrolled civil aerodromes.

In the event of the VOR being withdrawn of service, the associated en-route DME is kept in service¹. A plan to improve and optimise the DME-DME coverage as necessary is also initiated.

2. Rationalisation of the VOR network and withdrawal of service of NDBs, both en-route and at civil aerodromes

The provisional timetable for the withdrawal of service of VORs and NDBs in the period up to 31 December 2024 as part of the DSNA plan to rationalise the VOR network and withdraw the NDB network, both en-route and at controlled civil aerodromes, is attached. This provisional timetable also includes information on the withdrawal of service of NDBs at uncontrolled aerodromes.

The decommissioning of a radio navigation aid is announced through Aeronautical Information Service, with the cessation of the various operational uses of that aid, including instrument flight procedures, routes, holdings, which use that aid.

3. Operational consequences of the withdrawal of service of certain VORs or NDBs on VFR activity

The following points are brought to the attention of VFR GAT airspace users in particular.

The lateral boundaries of airspace structures are defined using WGS-84 coordinates. Some segments of the lateral boundaries of the CTR PARIS are marked by a guard radial of a radio navigation aid, shown on the 1 : 250,000 map « Paris Region ». If the corresponding aid is withdrawn of service, this guard radial disappears.

Each constituent point of a published VFR transit route is a visual fix which may be associated in the AIP with WGS-84 coordinates and a radial/range pair to a radio navigation aid. If the aid is withdrawn of service, the visual fix is associated in the AIP with WGS-84 coordinates and the radial/range pair to that aid is replaced by another radial/range pair to another radio navigation aid where possible.

¹ Except for ITS.

4. Operational consequences of the PBN regulation on CAT I precision approach operations after 6 June 2030

The PBN regulation no longer allows the use of radio aids to conventional navigation for CAT I approach operations after 6 June 2030, except for emergency situations.

Airspace users are invited to take into account this regulatory requirement, which implies to have SBAS CAT I airborne navigation equipment and to use published PBN approach procedures leading to LPV operational minima based on the navigation service provided by the EGNOS provider.

ANNEX

Provisional timetable for the withdrawal of service of VORs and NDBs and introduction of DMEs in the period up to 31 December 2024 as part of the DSNA plan to rationalise the VOR network, withdraw the NDB network and strengthen and optimise the DME network, both en-route and at controlled civil aerodromes. This provisional timetable also includes information on the withdrawal of service of NDBs at uncontrolled aerodromes.

AIRAC cycle	AIRAC date	Withdrawal of service of VORs	Withdrawal of service of NDBs	Introduction of DMEs
2201	27/01/2022	AMB	ING	
2202	24/02/2022		LL	
2203	24/03/2022	NIZ, RLP	NC	
2204	21/04/2022	DGN	MV, TUR	
2205	19/05/2022		BN, BS	
2206	16/06/2022	ITS, PGS	BO, MS, RQ, YN	
2207	14/07/2022		LA, LP	
2208	11/08/2022			
2209	08/09/2022		EG	
2210	06/10/2022		BGC, CL, CS, CT, FA, LPD, LSU, PL	
2211	03/11/2022	MTD, TIS	ASM	LOL ²
2212	01/12/2022		BSV, CC	
2213	29/12/2022	AGN, ANG, CGS, PTV	AG, GL	ANG
2301	26/01/2023		VA	
2302	23/02/2023			
2303	23/03/2023		AS, BP, LM, LN	
2304	20/04/2023		FC, RZ, SE	
2305	18/05/2023			
2306	15/06/2023		BV, POY, ROM	
2307	13/07/2023			
2308	10/08/2023			
2309	07/09/2023	CTL		

² Replaces the DME POY withdrawn of service on 03/11/2022.

2310	05/10/2023		CSC	
2311	02/11/2023			
2312	30/11/2023		PI	
2313	28/12/2023		AB, AMB, DA, DSA	
2401	25/01/2024			
2402	22/02/2024		AR, AT, PY, VE	
2403	21/03/2024			
2404	18/04/2024		BZ	
2405	16/05/2024	SAU	BD, BE, NB	
2406	13/06/2024	DPE, NEV		
2407	11/07/2024			
2408	08/08/2024			
2409	05/09/2024	ABB, RBT		
2410	03/10/2024	BRY		
2411	31/10/2024	LTP, VNE	BR, WS	
2412	28/11/2024			
2413	26/12/2024	EVX, GAI		GAI