



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20591

OCT 31 2000

NOV 3

100

Mr. Phil Boyer
President, Aircraft Owners
and Pilots Association
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Boyer:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be transitioning to the use of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Flight Plan for domestic as well as international operations.

We are committed to furthering international harmonization and working with neighboring air traffic service providers to achieve as seamless an air traffic control environment for system users and service providers as practical. While this course is being pursued in part because of our international agreements, our primary objective is to achieve increased National Airspace System efficiencies which will ultimately benefit all stakeholders.

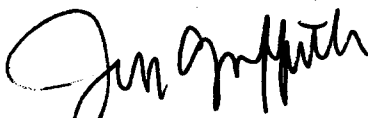
There has been a significant increase in the numbers of aircraft and flight crews that operate in both the domestic and international environment. Therefore, a need to standardize flight plan formats and processes has become critical. Advances in navigation, such as the Global Positioning System, and communication capabilities, such as data link, cannot be fully accommodated using our current flight planning practices without a major overhaul. In order to fully realize the benefits of new surveillance, communication, navigation, and approach aid capabilities, the information must be clearly evident to air traffic controllers. This can be accommodated through the more flexible and widely accepted method that the ICAO convention provides.

The move to the ICAO flight planning convention is not being taken lightly. We understand that there will be potential impacts on the aviation community. It is our intent to work with industry to identify those potential impacts and methods to mitigate them.

The FAA is forming a work group with the stakeholders of the National Airspace System that will allow for users, such as yourselves, to provide input into the FAA transition plan. I invite your participation in this work group. You will provide us with important insight as we try to mitigate the impacts of the domestic to ICAO flight plan transition. We envision the work group meeting on a recurring basis as we proceed toward the stated objective with the initial meeting being held on Thursday, November 30, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Conference Rooms 4438-4440, 4th floor, Department of Transportation (NASSIF Building), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Please forward the name of your representative to Patrick Millspaw, ATP-110.2, at (202) 267-9192, no later than November 20.

Sincerely,



Jeff Griffith

Program Director for Air Traffic
Planning and Procedures