



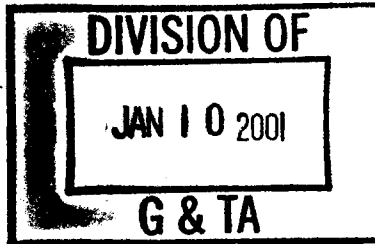
U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Director of Air Traffic

800 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

JAN 10 2001

JAN 5 2001



Mr. Phil Boyer  
President, Aircraft Owners and  
Pilots Association  
421 Aviation Way  
Frederick, MD 21701-4798

Dear Mr. Boyer:

This is in response to your letter regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) decision to convert to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) flight plan format for domestic operations. The FAA sincerely appreciates the input provided by your organization in this matter.

The information contained in your letter was valuable in developing the following strategies concerning ICAO flight planning for AOPA covered aircraft. The FAA plans to proceed with an overall conversion to ICAO flight plan format. However, we are pursuing the development of an automation approach that will permit pilots filing flight plans whose routes of flight will remain within domestic airspace under either visual flight rules (VFR) or instrument flight rules (IFR) to continue to utilize the current FAA flight plan format. Aircraft with destinations outside of domestic airspace will continue to be required to understand and utilize ICAO flight plan format. For these pilots, this should not be a change; therefore, additional training should not be required.

Since there is risk involved in the development of this automation approach in the event that a satisfactory solution cannot be developed, the FAA will coordinate such so as to ascertain the potential impact to your organization.

Thanks again for your interest in this matter. If you have any comments, concerns or further questions regarding this matter, please direct them to Mr. Jeff Griffith, Program Director for Air Traffic Planning and Procedures, at (202) 267-9155.

Sincerely,

*for Maureen Woods*  
Ronald E. Morgan  
Director of Air Traffic