

North Atlantic (NAT) Operations Bulletin Containing Special Emphasis Items for Operation in NAT under 25 NM Reduced Lateral Separation Minimum (RLatSM) Operational Trials

The purpose of this Briefing Leaflet is to provide guidance to crews operating in the North Atlantic (NAT) whose operators should have received material ([NAT OPS Bulletin 2015_003](#)) to be included in Pilot and dispatcher training programs and operations manuals preparing them for operations in the North Atlantic under Reduced Lateral Separation of 25 Nautical Miles (NAT RLatSM) trial.

Based on the recommendations of the NAT Safety Oversight Group (NAT SOG) and NAT Implementation Management Group (NAT IMG), the NAT Systems Planning Group (NAT SPG) has agreed that all the elements received were sufficient for the approval of the commencement of phase 1 of the RLatSM trial on 12 November 2015.

The Briefing Leaflet is specifically intended to raise awareness for pilots and dispatcher's in regards to the importance of following procedures in an environment where ½ degree waypoints and a lateral separation minimum of 25NM are applied.

Please be reminded that RLatSM Phase 1 will introduce ½ degree spacing between the two core tracks of the NAT organized track structure (OTS) from FL350 to FL390 inclusive. Any flight, that meets the following requirements as filed in their ICAO flight plan, can be routed or re-routed by ATC on an RLatSM track:

- a. be MNPS approved;
- b. be RNP4 approved;
- c. be ADS-C and CPDLC equipped and, where applicable, authorized; and
- d. having the required CNS systems operational.

This means simply including the appropriate codes in the ICAO flight plan makes a flight eligible for the routing. The documentation as currently worded could imply that to be eligible you must meet the requirements, and if you did not flight plan a RLatSM track then you would NOT be routed onto a RLatSM track - **this is not the case**. If the codes appear in your ICAO flight plan, then they CAN route you onto a RLatSM track whether you filed the route or not.

The NAT OPS Bulletin 2015 003 is available [online](#).

Captain Mike Hynes (mike.hynes@alpa.org) is the Regional Vice President for the NAT and a member of the Air Traffic Services (ATS) Committee where these issues are discussed. The next ATS Committee meeting will be held at ICAO Montreal, 21-23 September 2015.