



SAFETY ALERT 2020-04

Issue 01

Date of Issue: April 05, 2020

SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGE AND ENHANCE NOTAM QUALITY

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

CAR PART VIII, SUB-PART 2 – SECTION E - NOTAM

BACKGROUND:

ICAO had developed and made available a Notameter tool to check NOTAMs quality at global level based on established quality criteria.

This tool shows that only 3.23% (value of 11 March 2020) of UAE NOTAMs meet the established quality criteria well below the global level (i.e. 13.12%). It is available for public use in <https://www.icao.int/safety/iStars/Pages/Notameter.aspx>.

This safety alert is issued to:

- a) Remind Aeronautical Information Services Providers certified in accordance with CAR VIII subpart 2 on the requirements regarding NOTAMs quality;
- b) Recommend NOTAM originators¹ to ensure that the information provided for the issuance of NOTAMs is in accordance with the quality criteria; and
- c) Encourage UAE Air operators to use the ICAO Notameter tool to enhance their safety management systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Aeronautical Information Services Providers certified in accordance with CAR VIII subpart 2 should review their systems to ensure that:

- a) All NOTAMs are originated in accordance with the CAR PART VIII, SUB-PART 2 – SECTION E and in particular considering the following criteria:
 - i. **Format** Is the NOTAM in ICAO Format?
 - ii. **Permanence** Is the NOTAM non-permanent? Permanent NOTAMs are NOTAMs non-grata, they are against the rules.
 - iii. **Length** Is the NOTAM less than 1200 characters?
 - iv. **Q code** Does a Q-Code exist ?

¹ **Originator (aeronautical data or aeronautical information)**. An entity that is accountable for data or information origination and/or from which the AIS organization receives aeronautical data and aeronautical information.



- v. **XXXXX** Is the Q-Code not unspecified? In other words, if the Q-code is just “XXXXX” that means that there isn’t one.
 - vi. **AIRAC Cycle NOTAM** Is the NOTAM not about an AIRAC miss? This one isn’t a defined rule, but one of the problems with the system is that it’s jammed up with junk. The less of these, the better.
 - vii. **Trigger NOTAMS.** Is the NOTAM not a Trigger NOTAM?
 - viii. **Activity NOTAMS.** Is the NOTAM unrelated to purely advising on some activity taking place (drone, balloon, fireworks ...)?
 - ix. **Duration** Is the duration of the NOTAM less than 90 days?
 - x. **Jargon** Is the NOTAM purged of jargon words that are not recommended? NOTAM is not in ICAO format.
- b) ICAO Notameter tool is used to evaluate and assess the level of UAE NOTAMs quality and to act on the areas of weakness.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

NOTAM originators should review their system to ensure that the information provided for the issuance of NOTAMs is in accordance with the quality criteria (including ten criteria mentioned in Recommendation 1).

RECOMMENDATION 3:

UAE Air operators may use the ICAO NOTAMETER tool to assess and mitigate the risks related to the aeronautical information quality in the area of operations.

CONTACTS:

AN_Section@gcaa.gov.ae