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**CNL AIC 007/2023 A**

## **Postponement of amended ICAO procedures concerning clearances to aircraft on SIDs and STARs and the equivalent SERA provisions.**

Amendment 7A to ICAO's Procedures for Air Navigation Services - Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) came into effect on 10 November 2016.

However, due to the need to mitigate the impact on Geneva and Zurich capacity, those parts of Amendment 7A concerning clearances to aircraft on SIDs and STARs are postponed in Switzerland.

The implementation in Switzerland of the equivalent Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA) provisions which came into effect on 01 May 2025 (through Regulation (EU) 2024/404 and ED Decision 2024/007/R) are similarly postponed.

**Note:** This is principally due to Geneva and Zurich ATC working practices which involve routinely taking ACFT away from, then back onto, their SID/STAR. In such an environment where leaving ACFT on a SID/STAR is not the norm, the new phraseology set brings concerns about increased RTF and ATC cognitive workload and the consequent impact on capacity.

The postponed ICAO Amendment 7A items and the SERA equivalents intend to provide a specific phraseology set for clearances to join, climb/descend on, leave or rejoin SIDs or STARs.

The main philosophy behind these phraseologies is:

- use of the words "VIA SID" / "VIA STAR" to reinforce respect of the published level/speed restrictions;
- removal of "VIA" from other phraseologies where superfluous;
- explicit phraseologies for cancellation of SID/STAR level/speed restrictions; and
- when flights are taken off a SID/STAR, reiteration of the cleared level and warning of any intent to have the flight subsequently rejoin the SID/STAR.

This ICAO phraseology set and the SERA equivalent are not yet used in Switzerland.

The amended PANS-ATM paragraphs concerned by this postponement and the SERA equivalents are:

- § 4.5.7.2 (Description of air traffic control clearances - Route of flight), SERA.8015(d)(3)(ii);
- § 4.6.4 (Horizontal speed control instructions - SID and STAR), AMC1 SERA.8015(b)(1);
- § 6.3.2.4 (Clearances on a SID), AMC1 SERA.14090(e);
- § 6.5.2.4 (Clearances on a STAR), AMC2 SERA.14090(e);
- § 12.3.1.2 (Phraseology - Level changes, reports and rates), Appendix 1 to AMC1 SERA.14001 § 1.1.2;

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- § 12.3.2.2 (Phraseology - Indication of route and clearance limit), Appendix 1 to AMC1 SERA.14001 § 1.2.2;
  - § 12.3.3.1 (Phraseology - Departure instructions), Appendix 1 to AMC1 SERA.14001 § 1.3.1;
  - § 12.3.3.2 (Phraseology - Approach instructions), Appendix 1 to AMC1 SERA.14001 § 1.3.2; and
  - § 12.4.1.6 (Phraseology - Speed control), Appendix 1 to AMC1 SERA.14001 § 2.1.6.

This postponement is expected to last until at least December 2027. Further information will be communicated in due time.

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