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The Scrutiny Working Group recommends interim procedures for RVSM monitoring in Dakar and Alantico FIRs

ICAO's Caribbean and South American Monitoring Agency (CARSAMMA) investigations into large height deviations (LHD), defined as more than 300ft from the assigned Flight Level, within the RVSM airspace. Has revealed that a significant number of these LHDs have been as the result of errors in the ATC unit to ATC unit transition messages. These have been especially elevated on transfers between the Atlantico and Dakar Flight Information Regions (FIRs).

As a result, the Scrutiny Working Group (SWG) set up by ICAO and including representatives from CAR and SAM regions as well as IATA, IFATCA, IFALPA and the CARSAMMA it self, has recommended that as an interim mitigation measure that the affected states in the region implement a requirement that pilots communicate with the adjacent ACCs five minutes prior to crossing the boundaries of these FIRs.

Background Information

The CARSAMMA was established by GREPECAS, ICAO's regional planning and implementation group for the CAR/SAM region to perform the safety oversight function supporting RVSM implementation and safe use. In its task CARSAMMA has applied the ICAO's safety assessment process and these calculations are used to estimate overall system risk considering all attributable parameters. Among these parameters is the total number of flight hours spent at incorrect flight levels (calculated as an annual figure). During this assessment it was revealed that LHDs posed a significant problem. Furthermore, a working group, the SWG was established to examine the data and provide an accurate analysis of the error reports received.



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