

Changes to the indication of VHF channels in Radiotelephony

For ATC and Flight Crews

Amendment 80 to ICAO Annex 10, Volume II - Aeronautical Telecommunications - takes effect on 24 November 2005.

It introduces a procedure for VHF communication channels to be indicated in 6 and 4 digits irrespective of whether 25 or 8.33 kHz channel spacing is used.

VHF channels will be indicated by:

- ▶ four (4) digits, for channels ending in two zeros - i.e. fifth (5th) and sixth (6th) digits both zero, and
- ▶ six (6) digits, for all other channels

The use of the term "CHANNEL" in radiotelephony, previously associated with 8.33 kHz channels, is discontinued.

For Flight Crews using 6 digit radios

When receiving a 4-digit VHF channel, select zeros as 5th and 6th digit.
When receiving a 6-digit VHF channel, select all 6 digits as transmitted.

Examples

VHF channel: 118.100	spoken as:	"ONE ONE EIGHT DECIMAL ONE"
VHF channel: 128.050	spoken as:	"ONE TWO EIGHT DECIMAL ZERO FIVE ZERO"
VHF channel: 128.075	spoken as:	"ONE TWO EIGHT DECIMAL ZERO SEVEN FIVE"



For Flight Crews using 5 digit radios

Situations will arise, outside the area of 8.33 kHz mandatory carriage, where an aircraft is equipped with a radio displaying 5 digits only, and the flight crew receives a communication transfer for a 25 kHz channel specified in 6 digits.

In such cases, caution must be exercised by the flight crew to select the first five digits only.

When receiving a 4-digit VHF channel, select zero as the 5th digit.
When receiving a 6-digit VHF channel, select the first 5 digits as transmitted.

Examples

VHF channel: 118.100	spoken as:	"ONE ONE EIGHT DECIMAL ONE"
VHF channel: 128.050	spoken as:	"ONE TWO EIGHT DECIMAL ZERO FIVE ZERO"
VHF channel: 128.075	spoken as:	"ONE TWO EIGHT DECIMAL ZERO SEVEN FIVE"



READBACK

It is essential that flight crew READBACK the channel number in full, and that controllers verify that the pilot has correctly understood.

Additional ATS and Flight Crew training is available on:
<http://elearning.eurocontrol.int/opencourses.htm>
(Select Transfer of Communications and press F11 for viewing in full screen)