



### USE OF ATFM-X FOR COVID VACCINE FLIGHTS

- Submitted by the Network Manager -

Following notification at EACCC teleconference #21, interaction has continued with the FAA, IATA, and Nav-Canada looking into the most streamlined and co-ordinated ATM approach to handling the necessary priority of certain flights carrying C19 Vaccines. Agreement was reached on EACCC Teleconference #22 with EACCC Members and State Focal Points to adopt this process to support critical flights transporting C-19 Vaccines

This process pertains to **critical** flights as it is recognized that delays may put vaccines at risk in only some cases; it does not apply to all flights carrying COVID-19 vaccines. Flight operators are responsible for determining which flights carrying COVID-19 vaccines are critical.

In order for ATC and ATM to identify critical COVID-19 vaccine distribution flights that may need special air traffic handling and/or priority, operators are asked to insert "STS/ATFMX" and "RMK/VACCINE" in Item 18 of the ICAO Flight Plan to identify any flight they have determined to be a critical flight due to COVID-19 vaccine transport. This will assist the ANSPs in maintaining an appropriate level of awareness of these flights.

#### Timeline

24<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Individual Publication of the harmonised approach by FAA, NavCanada, and EUROCONTROL for AOs to use ATFMX for flights that are considered critical due to the carriage of C-19 Vaccines.

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – NOTAM publication by Member States

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – implementation date of procedure for FAA, NavCanada and ECTRL Member States.

With regard to reporting the use of ATFMX to states and the likely increase to the normal permitted exemptions of 0.6% of flights, EUROCONTROL/NM will undertake some analysis of the reports on the use of ATFMX provided to States, to ensure that states are only requested to report against what can easily be determined to be non-VACCINE flights.



## Regulatory references for AIS publication of ATFM exemptions

### *Network Functions IR 2019/123*

- *Annex 2, Part B, Article 5c requires the states to have common procedures for requesting exemptions to ATFM slots and that those procedures shall be co-ordinated with NM and published in the National Aeronautical Information publications.*

### *ATFM IR 255/2010*

- *Art.4, paragraph 5.*

## NOTAM Text:

*Effective Date – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021*

*Published by – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021*

*To ensure safe and expeditious delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, aircraft operators of flights carrying such vaccines should ask approval from (mention relevant State Authority) for exemption from ATFM measures for each flight deemed critical. Upon approval, STS/ATFMX and RMK/VACCINE shall be inserted in Item 18 of the flight plan. Aircraft Operators carrying COVID 19 vaccines regularly may request approval in advance for all flights involved.*