

Update on SID STAR Phraseology and Procedures

This is an update to [Safety Bulletin 16SAB06](#) concerning the SID/STAR Phraseology and Procedures.

The amendment to the fifteenth edition of the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) became effective 10 November 2016. The aim of the amendment was to eliminate any clearance ambiguities between air traffic controllers and flight crews by utilizing explicit clearance phraseology. This would facilitate having a common understanding of the clearance expectations and provide phraseology harmonisation.

IFALPA has been made aware that not all States have implemented the changes in procedures and phraseology yet. It is hoped that this will be achieved during 2017, so the changes highlighted in 16SAB06 and the ICAO website are not yet fully implemented globally.

The US is using a slightly different phraseology:

- The word UNRESTRICTED will not be used, instead CLIMB and MAINTAIN or DESCEND and MAINTAIN will be used to indicate the removal of intermediate altitude restrictions to the cleared altitude (level).
- Also the phrase CLIMB VIA SID TO will not contain an altitude or FL as this will be depicted on the chart.

Pilots are reminded that when navigating on a published procedure (SID/STAR/CDO/CCO) if there is any doubt whatsoever as to whether or not published level restrictions should be followed they should request clarification from ATC.