

13th May 2025

Department of Transport

By email only

Re: Briefing note on AIRNAV Irelands Role in Instrument Flight Procedures for Dublin Airport.

Executive Summary: Role of AIRNAV Ireland in Flight Procedure Design at Dublin Airport

Under EU Regulation 139/2014, the daa, as the Aerodrome Operator, holds primary responsibility for ensuring that flight procedures are designed and maintained in line with regulatory requirements. The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) acts as the independent regulatory authority, overseeing and approving all flight procedure designs.

While AIRNAV Ireland-the Air Navigation Service Provider-plays a key role in supporting the process, it is not responsible for setting the regulatory or core design requirements. Instead, AIRNAV Ireland operates at the request of the daa (aerodrome operator), coordinates the drafting and publication of procedures based on daa's operational needs and in compliance with IAA guidance.

The actual design work is carried out by a certified third-party entity, contracted by AIRNAV Ireland, and must meet strict EU and national regulatory standards. Final approval of all procedures rests with the IAA.

In summary, AIRNAV Ireland's role is technical and facilitative, rather than regulatory. It ensures that the daa's operational requirements are translated into compliant procedures, but it does not determine the regulatory framework or the core design criteria.

Supporting information:

In accordance with COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 139/2014, the Aerodrome Operator, namely the daa shall ensure the design and maintenance of the flight procedures, in accordance with the applicable requirements.

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ADR.OR.C.005 Aerodrome operator responsibilities

The aerodrome operator shall ensure directly, or coordinate through arrangements as required with the accountable entities providing the following services:

- (1) the provision of air navigation services appropriate to the level of traffic and the operating conditions at the aerodrome; and
- (2) the design and maintenance of the flight procedures, in accordance with the applicable requirements.

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The COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 139/2014 also outlines the role of the IAA as the regulatory competent authority.

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ADR.AR.A.005 Competent Authority

The Competent Authority designated by the Member State in which an aerodrome is located shall be responsible for the:
(a) certification and oversight of aerodromes and its aerodrome operators.

In their role as the competent authority, the IAA have produced Guidance Material on Instrument Flight Procedures which is published on the IAA website ASAM No:017 Issue 8. This document outlines the applicable international (ICAO) and EU regulatory requirements for flight procedure design.

As permitted under EU Regulation 139/2014 and the ASAM, the daa and the Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP)-AIRNAV Ireland-have established an agreement where AIRNAV Ireland is responsible for drafting and publishing flight procedures.

The daa, as the aerodrome operator, provides the baseline design requirements to the ANSP. These include details

such as runway usage (e.g., landing only, take-off and landing, mixed mode, or segregated operations). In collaboration with airline operators, the daa also determines the destination countries and aerodromes served by the airport.

Additionally, the ANSP, in coordination with the neighbouring ANSP (UK NATS), agrees on airspace boundary points to support the flight procedures aligned with the daa's destination planning.

AIRNAV Ireland uses these core daa requirements and, in accordance with the IAA ASAM, contracts a EU Regulation 2017/373 FPD-certified entity to ensure that the flight procedures are developed in compliance with the State's regulatory framework.

While this note does not cover detailed design specifications, ASAM 017 provides a high-level overview of flight procedure construction principles. These include:

- Obstacle clearance

- Environmental considerations

- Noise abatement requirements

- Airspace integration with other airspace users such as the Air Corps and Weston operations

Once the certified designer produces a draft procedure based on daa's aerodrome requirements and ATC procedures and safety requirements, the IAA reviews and approves the design and the associated aeronautical information which is then published in the State Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) by the Aeronautical Information Services (AIS) Office, managed by AIRNAV Ireland.

AIRNAV Ireland remain at the disposal of the daa and the IAA Regulatory Competent Authority to engage in any process of review the flight procedure design at Dublin airport.