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User Requirements for Terrain and Obstacle Data

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FOREWORD

This report was prepared by Special Committee 217 (SC-217) and approved by the RTCA Program Management Committee on September 22, 2015.

RTCA, Incorporated is a not-for-profit corporation formed to advance the art and science of aviation and aviation electronic systems for the benefit of the public. The organization functions as a Federal advisory committee, and develops consensus-based recommendations on contemporary aviation issues. RTCA's objectives include but are not limited to:

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- analyzing and recommending solutions to the system technical issues that aviation faces as it continues to pursue increased safety, system capacity and efficiency;

- developing consensus on the application of pertinent technology to fulfill user and provider requirements, including development of minimum operational performance standards for electronic systems and equipment that support aviation; and

- assisting in developing the appropriate technical material upon which positions for the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union and other appropriate international organizations can be based.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides guidance for data gathering by data originators, for data processing by data providers, for implementation by application integrators, and for end use by the aviation community (e.g., air carriers, air traffic services, procedure designers). It is supplemental to the data processing requirements included in RTCA DO-200B/EUROCAE ED-76A and the exchange of data included in RTCA DO-291C/EUROCAE ED-119C.

The minimum set of user requirements applicable to terrain and obstacle data, from creation through the entire life cycle, are defined. Numerical requirements for source data necessary to accommodate the most stringent known application requirements are also defined. Collectively these define a set of requirements that satisfy this universal set of applications. It should be noted that the numeric requirements have been derived solely based on user requirements and not on the basis of acquisition cost. Types of errors associated with terrain and obstacles are identified and some means by which these errors may be mitigated are suggested. The accuracy, integrity, and resolution requirements for primary means of navigation have not been considered in this document.

The following four areas of applicability are used, as defined per ICAO Annex 15 (Ref. 5): Area 1 – The State; Area 2 – The Terminal Area (vicinity of aerodrome), Area 3 – Aerodrome Movement Area, and Area 4 – the CAT II or III Operation Area. The requirements for accuracy, integrity and resolution have been tailored to meet these needs.

Guidance for certification or approval of systems or procedures that use terrain and obstacle databases is also provided. It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that the data meet the requirements for its intended application. The requirements stated in this document address the areas viewed by industry to be of most importance to certification. These areas cover database attributes including accuracy, resolution and integrity. The document also describes the creation and maintenance steps for databases and highlights the certification-related verification, validation and traceability requirements in those steps.

The document is organized as follows:

Section 1 provides background information regarding the purpose for developing terrain and obstacle data requirements.

Section 2 defines the terms terrain and obstacle, which is necessary to distinguish between features in an aviation database.

Section 3 defines the minimum set of attributes for terrain and obstacle databases. For each attribute there is a definition and the option of including a description and set of capture rules. For obstacles there is also a definition of the temporal requirements.

Section 4 defines the spatial extent of four areas for terrain and four areas for obstacles and the unique data requirements of each of these areas.

Section 5 provides guidance related to data quality management.

Section 6 provides guidance to data suppliers and certification authorities.

Note: Section and paragraph referencing in this document is done with (for example) – Section 6.1.2 – where the Section is the number 6 and 1.2 is the specific paragraph number in that Section.

The Membership List was updated, in Section 7.

Appendix A is a glossary of relevant terms.

Appendix B lists important abbreviations and acronyms.

Appendix C provides an overview of the types of applications that may make use of terrain and obstacle databases.

Appendix D provides useful information related to data quality assessments.

Appendix E provides basic information on remote sensing technologies used in the generation of terrain databases.

Appendix F provides recommendations for post spacing and Polar Region Data

Appendix G is a list of references.

REVISIONS to RTCA DO-276B/EUROCAE ED-98B

The following list is a summary of the major changes made to RTCA DO-276B/EUROCAE ED-98B for the DO-276C and ED-98C versions.

A number of editorial errors, mainly reported by the users of the previous version of the document, or found during the update of the document were corrected.

Definition of Term and Conventions updated, including the explanation of the new rule numbering system, Section 1.3.

Terrain Data Attributes updated to maintain compatibility with ICAO and address Polar Regions, Section 3.2.

Obstacle Data Attributes updated to maintain compatibility with ICAO and to address Rotorcraft Operations, Section 3.3.

Added new temporal data attributes for obstacles, Sections 3.3.21 and 3.3.22, and modified prior temporal data attributes, Sections 3.3.19 and 3.3.20.

Added new capture rules for Obstacle Geometry Type, Section 3.3.26.

Numerical Requirements for Terrain and Obstacles updated to maintain compatibility with ICAO and to address Rotorcraft Operations, Section 4.

Principles of Data Collection for Terrain updated, Section 6.1.1.

Principles of Mathematic Transformations for Terrain updated, Section 6.1.2.

Glossary (Appendix A) updated to align with ICAO, RTCA and EUROCAE standards.

New Appendix F, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POST SPACING AND POLAR DATA, was added.

List of References (Appendix G) updated.

The Membership List was updated.

This summary of revisions was included.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE 1
1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 Scope 1
1.3 Definition of Terms and Conventions 1
1.4 Application of This Document 2
1.5 Assumptions 3
1.6 Section Synopsis 3

2 TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE DATA DEFINATIONS 5
2.1 Introduction 5
2.2 Definitions 5
2.2.1 Terrain 5
2.2.2 Obstacle 5

3 TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE DATA ATTRIBUTES 7
3.1 Introduction 7
3.1.1 Vertical Structure and Obstacle Data 7
3.2 Terrain Data Attributes 7
3.2.1 Area of Coverage 9
3.2.2 Data Originator Identifier 10
3.2.3 Data Source Identifier 10
3.2.4 Acquisition Method 10
3.2.5 Post Spacing 10
3.2.6 Horizontal Reference System 11
3.2.7 Horizontal Resolution 11
3.2.8 Horizontal Accuracy 11
3.2.9 Horizontal Confidence Level 11
3.2.10 Horizontal Position 12
3.2.11 Elevation 12
3.2.12 Unit of Measurement used 12
3.2.13 Elevation Reference 12
3.2.14 Vertical Reference System 13
3.2.15 Vertical Resolution 13
3.2.16 Vertical Accuracy 13
3.2.17 Vertical Confidence Level 14
3.2.18 Surface Type 14
3.2.19 Recorded Surface 14
3.2.20 Penetration Level 14
3.2.21 Known Variations 14
3.2.22 Integrity 15
3.2.23 Date and Time Stamps (Temporal Data) 15
3.3 Obstacle Data Attributes 15
3.3.1 Area of Coverage 16
3.3.2 Data Originator Identifier 17
3.3.3 Data Source Identifier 17
3.3.4 Horizontal Position 17
3.3.5 Horizontal Reference System 17

3.3.6 Horizontal Resolution 17
3.3.7 Horizontal Extent 18
3.3.8 Horizontal Accuracy 18
3.3.9 Horizontal Confidence Level 18
3.3.10 Elevation 18
3.3.11 Height 19
3.3.12 Unit of Measurement used 19
3.3.13 Vertical Reference System 19
3.3.14 Vertical Resolution 20
3.3.15 Vertical Accuracy 20
3.3.16 Vertical Confidence Level 20
3.3.17 Obstacle Type 20
3.3.18 Revision Date and Time (Temporal Data) 21
3.3.19 Validity (Temporal Data) 21
3.3.20 Interpretation (Temporal Data) 21
3.3.21 Feature Life Time (Temporal Data) 21
3.3.22 Status 22
3.3.23 Lighting 22
3.3.24 Marking 22
3.3.25 Geometry Type 22
3.3.26 Obstacle Identifier 28
3.3.27 Obstacle Idnumber 28
3.4 Data Capture Rule Summary 28
3.5 Obstacle Temporality 31
3.5.1 General 31
3.5.2 Temporal Primitives 32
3.5.3 Temporal Constraints 34

4 NUMERICAL REQUIREMENTS 35
4.1 Introduction 35
4.2 Areas of Coverage 35
4.3 Area 1 – The State 36
4.4 Area 2 – The Terminal Area (vicinity of aerodrome) 36
4.4.1 Area 2 Obstacles 37
4.4.2 Area 2 Terrain 38
4.5 Area 3 – Aerodrome Movement Area 39
4.5.1 Area 3 Obstacles 40
4.5.2 Area 3 Terrain 41
4.6 Area 4 – Cat II or III Operation Area 41
4.6.1 Area 4 Obstacles 42
4.6.2 Area 4 Terrain 42
4.7 Summary of Numerical Terrain and Obstacle Data Requirements 43
4.7.1 Obstacle Data Numerical Requirements 43
4.7.2 Terrain Data Numerical Requirements 43

5 QUALITY MANAGEMENT 45
5.1 Introduction 45
5.2 Traceability 45
5.3 Quality Assurance 45
5.4 Errors 45

5.4.1 Types of Errors 45
5.4.2 Errors that Affect the Confidence Level of a Database 46
5.4.3 Accuracy and Precision 46
5.4.4 Resolution 46
5.4.5 Timeliness Effects and Currency Errors 46
5.4.6 Semantic Errors 47
5.5 System Integrity 47

6. CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES 49
6.1 Terrain Database Generation Phases 49
6.1.1 Data Collection 49
6.1.2 Mathematical Transformations 50
6.1.3 Database Assembly 51
6.1.4 Verification 51
6.1.5 Validation 51
6.2 Obstacle Database Generation Phases 52
6.2.1 Data Collection 52
6.2.2 Mathematical Transformations 52
6.2.3 Database Assembly 53
6.2.4 Verification 53
6.2.5 Validation 53
6.3 Maintenance of Databases 54

7. MEMBERSHIP……55

APPENDIX A : GLOSSARY. A-1

APPENDIX B : ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS B-1

APPENDIX C : APPLICATIONS OF TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE DATABASES C-1
C.1 Introduction C-1
C.2 Background C-1
C.2.1 Overview of Terrain and Obstacle Aviation Database Applications C-1
C.2.2 A Common Developmental Outline / “Template” C-3
C.3 List of Selected Terrain and Obstacle Applications: C-3
C.3.1 Terrain Awareness and Warning System (TAWS) C-4
C.3.2 Off-Airway “Drift-Down” Protection C-4
C.3.3 Emergency Landing Site Location Selection C-5
C.3.4 Synthetic Vision C-5
C.3.5 Minimum Safe Altitude Warning (MSAW) C-7
C.3.6 Instrument Procedure Design C-7
C.3.7 Engine-Out Procedure Analysis C-8
C.3.8 Simulation/Flight Crew Familiarization in Terminal Airspace C-8
C.3.9 Decision Height Determination by the Use of Radio Altimeters C-9

APPENDIX D : TERRAIN AND OBSTACLE CONSIDERATIONS D-1
D.1 Reference System Considerations D-1
D.2 Errors D-1
D.2.1 Random Errors D-1

D.2.2 Systematic Errors D-1
D.2.3 Blunders D-1
D.3 Error Assessment D-2
D.4 Confidence Level of a Database D-2
D.5 Accuracy and Precision D-3
D.6 Resolution D-4

APPENDIX E : REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE GENERATION OF THE TERRAIN DATABASE E-1
E.1 Summary E-1
E.2 Sensor Types E-1
E.3 Stereo Aerial Photography E-1
E.4 Stereo Satellite Images E-2
E.5 Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR) E-2
E.6 Light Detection and Ranging E-4
E.7 Digital Ortho-Rectified Imagery E-5

APPENDIX F : RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POST SPACING AND POLAR DATA E-1
F.1 Introduction F-1
F.2 Background F-1
F.3 Recommended Post Spacing F-1
F.4 Universal Polar Stereographic Projection F-1

APPENDIX G : MINIMUM BOUNDING BOX G-1

APPENDIX H : REFERENCES H-1

TABLE OF TABLES

Table 3-1 Terrain Attributes 9
Table 3-2 Obstacle Attributes 16
Table 3-3: Terrain and Obstacle Capture Rule Summary 28
Table 4-1 Obstacle Data Requirements for Area 1 – The State 36
Table 4-2 Terrain Data Requirements for Area 1 – The State 36
Table 4-3 Obstacle Data Requirements for Area 2 – Terminal Area 38
Table 4-4 Terrain Data Requirements for Area 2 – Terminal Area 38
Table 4-5: Obstacle Data Requirements for Area 3 – Aerodrome Movement Area 41
Table 4-6: Terrain Data Requirements for Area 3 – Aerodrome Movement Area 41
Table 4-7: Obstacle Data Requirements for Area 4 – CAT II/III Operation Area 42
Table 4-8: Terrain Data Requirements for Area 4 – CAT II/III Operation Area 43
Table 4-9: Summary of Obstacle Data Requirements 43
Table 4-10: Summary of Terrain Data Requirements 44
Table F-1: Recommendation of a projection grid and horizontal spacing of elevations for each latitude range F-1

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1: Terrain and Obstacle Data Flow 2
Figure 2-1: Terrain Definition Illustration 5
Figure 2-2: Obstacle Definition Illustration 6
Figure 3-1: Example of a Terrain Database Represented as a DEM 7
Figure 3-2: DEM of Fixed Grid Elevations Annotated with Obstacle Data 8
Figure 3-3: Elevation of the line differs from the elevation of the mounting by more than the vertical accuracy 24
Figure 3-4: Elevation of the line differs from the elevation of the mounting by less than the vertical accuracy 24
Figure 3-5: Incorrect - line does not start/end on wire mountings 25
Figure 3-6: Correct - line starts and ends on wire mountings 25
Figure 3-7: Incorrect - only part with relevant height is collected 25
Figure 3-8: Correct - cable car is collected in total 26
Figure 3-9: Segmented Obstacle Modeling Example 27
Figure 3-10: Temporal Attributes for Obstacle Features 34
Figure 4-1: Area 1 and 2 for Obstacles 37
Figure 4-2: Areas 1 and 2 for Terrain 39
Figure 4-3: Terrain and Obstacle Data Collection Surface – Area 3 40
Figure 4-4: Terrain and Obstacles Data Collection Surface – Area 4 42
Figure C-1: Simplified Version of an Advanced CNS Cockpit Architecture C-2
Figure D-1: Accuracy and Precision D-3
Figure E-1: Concept of Stereo Aerial Photography E-2
Figure E-2: Concept of Operations for IFSAR System E-3
Figure E-3: IFSAR Interferometric ORI and DEM Products E-4
Figure E-4: DTM, DORI, 3D Objects, Textures, and Metadata for 3D Scene Visualization E-5

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1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

This document was written to identify requirements for terrain and obstacle data.

Data originators require the quality characteristics to be defined, including specific numerical values, in order to provide data for use in applications. Appendix C provides some illustrative application examples.

Certification authorities and the end users require information to ensure that terrain and obstacle data satisfy the intended applications.

1.2 Scope

This document defines the minimum user requirements applicable to the origination and publication of terrain and obstacle data from creation through the entire life cycle of the data. Data processing should be accomplished in accordance with RTCA DO-200B/EUROCAE ED-76A. This document provides a minimum list of attributes associated with the terrain and obstacle data and a description of associated errors that may need to be addressed.

The numerical values in Section 4 are defined to accommodate the most stringent known application requirements, and not on a basis of acquisition cost. The accuracy, integrity, and resolution requirements for primary means of navigation have not been considered in this document.

Additionally, guidance material is provided to assist the certification process of an application using terrain and obstacle data.

Land use/land cover database requirements have not been specifically addressed in this document.

1.3 Definition of Terms and Conventions

This document contains specific definitions for terrain and obstacles (see section 2.2). A glossary of terms used in this document is provided in Appendix A. A full appreciation of these terms (e.g., resolution, post spacing, etc.) is critical to understanding this document.

In addition, the following conventions have been adopted:

- The term "**shall**" means that compliance is required.
- The term "**should**" implies that compliance is not required, but is strongly recommended.

Requirements are specified in Sections 3 and 4 and are uniquely numbered to support requirements traceability procedures. Requirements ("**shall**" statements) are enumerated with identifiers in the format [TERR-RXXX] for terrain and [OBST-RXXX] for obstacles at the end of a sentence (prior to the period), where XXX is an identifier (ID) unique across all requirements in the document. The letter 'R' specifies this as a requirement.

Recommendations ("**should**" statements) are enumerated with an ID formatted as [TERR-DXXX] for terrain and [OBST-DXXX] for obstacles at the end of a sentence, where XXX is an ID unique across all recommendations in the document. The letter 'D' specifies this as a recommendation (design objective).

Each ID is specific to the version of the document in which it appears. However, an ID number associated with a requirement or recommendation will not change from one version to another unless

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