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Newsletter - June 4th, 2009

FltPlan.com enters third month of eAPIS submissions for international flights

Beginning on May 18, 2009, all general aviation pilots departing from or arriving to the United States from an international airport are required to electronically provide pilot information, aircraft information, and passenger manifest to DHS/Customs (CBP) at least 60 minutes prior to departure.

In anticipation of this requirement, FltPlan.com researched the CBP site and decided to develop proprietary software that would make life easier for Part 91 operators flying internationally. It is important to comply with the new eAPIS rules and doing it right is imperative. The first fine for an infraction is \$5,000.

We named Bob Allen, who has ten years of experience at FltPlan.com, as the coordinator of our eAPIS program. Bob has spoken with hundreds of pilots over the past two months and said our eAPIS system has been universally well-received by the many pilots that signed up for it.

"I recently used the eAPIS feature on your site for the first time. It worked flawlessly, no surprise there, and was extremely easy to use.

Thanks for the great service you provide and for taking the time to get it right," - FltPlan.com eAPIS subscriber.

In March 2009, FltPlan.com was the first commercial provider to be certified by DHS/Customs for submissions of eAPIS Manifest for Part 91 operators.

Since FltPlan.com's first submissions on April 1, we have continued to improve and modify our system to make our eAPIS program even more versatile. We have submitted more Certified eAPIS Manifests for Private Aircraft than any other company.

More information about our eAPIS system can be found at <http://www.FltPlan.com/eapisinfo.htm>, or you can give Bob's team a call at (888)358-3375 or (731)855-8000.

ICAO Format Flight Plans

It's been one year since ICAO Format has become required for filing RNAV procedures. Even after a year, many pilots are still unsure what to do when filing flight plans in ICAO Format. This article will make the process of filing an ICAO format flight plan more understandable and less intimidating. [Click Here for Full Article.](#)

Filing DIRECT

Using a route of DIRECT to file flight plans between two airports might save you a few seconds when creating a flight plan, however it may cost you big time once you get in the plane.

ATC is increasingly taking a dim view of pilots filing DIRECT between airports in different Center airspaces.

Some pilots are filing DIRECT on flights of over a thousand miles. Not a good idea.

Even more aggravating to controllers, some pilots are filing DIRECT to and from busy airports that have applicable SIDs and STARs available for the route of flight.

Why is this a problem?

Most ATC Centers do not have every airport outside of their coverage area in their computer database. When you file DIRECT, your destination airport becomes the first fix. If the airport is not in the center's database, then a flight plan clearance cannot be generated by the ATC computers.

When this happens, ATC must manually deal with your flight plan. File DIRECT within a few minutes of your departure with an overworked controller, and you may not have a clearance when you start up.

Bottom line:

1.) Don't file DIRECT through multiple center airspaces.

As a rule of thumb, if the flight is more than 100nm, then insert at least one VOR on your route.

FltPlan.com makes it easy for you to get a route using any of these methods:

- a.) Preferred Routes
- b.) Recent IFR Routes used by FltPlan.com users
- c.) Recent Planned ATC Routes
- d.) Nearby Routes
- e.) FltPlan.com's full Feature Enroute Charts with Current Weather
- f.) FltPlan.com's CLASSIC Enroute Charts

These are all available from the page where you enter your route for the flight plan.

2.) Use our Planned ATC Route to your cell phone/Mobile Device feature (link on left side of Main Menu Page) to get a heads-up on the clearance that is planned for you.

Filed Flight Plan History

Forgot where you flew a few months ago? How about 4 years ago? Using FltPlan.com, you can now get a list of the flight plans you've filed going back to 2005.

Click on the Flight Tracking link (left side of Main Menu Page) and look for:

Display flight plans filed by FltPlan.com from this account.		
Select N#:	All Aircraft ▾	Period: For Year 2006 ▾
		ENTER

FltPlan.com Smartphone/PDA

FltPlan.com Provides 2 great tools for Pilots:

1. Full Flight Planning on Smartphones

All the great features available on the FltPlan.com web site are available to you on virtually all smartphones including iPhones, BlackBerrys, Palm Treos, and Windows Mobile Devices. Here's a link to the mobile site: <http://www.FltPlan.com/Mobile>.

2. Flight Deck Guide

FltPlan.com provides airport and FBO information plus airport diagrams, nearby airports, alternate airports, customs information, approach and runway information. When in the air, all of this is available at your fingertips with our Flt Deck Guide. Follow this link for more information:

<http://wh83.FltPlan.com/FltDeckAirportFBOGuide.htm>

The Flt Deck Guide works on iPhones, BlackBerrys, Palm Treos, and Windows Mobile Devices.

Note - BlackBerry Storm Users: Verizon has offered the latest BlackBerry OS upgrade. This upgrade includes a patch for the SD Card Media Playlist issue. The link to upgrade to OS v4.7.0.148 is <http://vzw.smithmicro.com/blackberry/>

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