

NAV CANADA
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Email: Jeff.Dawson@navcanada.ca

April 22, 2024

Subject: 2024 Update ADS-B capabilities in Canada

To our valued customers,

NAV CANADA is pleased to offer an update on the implementation of the Canadian Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast (ADS-B) mandate.

ADS-B surveillance enhances safety by providing air traffic services with highly accurate flight data, providing earlier visibility to aircraft deviations, aiding emergency response in tracking and locating aircraft in distress and more. It also enhances efficiency for customers, enabling more preferred routes, speeds and flight levels, leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

ADS-B mandate in Class A airspace

On August 10, 2023, the first phase of the Canadian space-based ADS-B mandate became effective for aircraft operating in Class A domestic airspace. We want to thank customers who supported the first phase of the mandate, and who have undertaken the important work and investment of updating avionics.

A small selection of customers identified that they were not going to be able to meet the equipage requirements in time for the mandate effective date and, in some cases, required additional time to comply. To help these customers bridge the gap, NAV CANADA has been offering accommodations for aircraft unable to transmit ADS-B in accordance with the Canadian mandate. The three principles NAV CANADA has been applying in consideration of ADS-B accommodation requests are: safety, type of ATC separation service available in a given airspace, and impacts to other airspace users. Blanket accommodations have been made available in some circumstances to air operators with regularly scheduled flights, while individual ADS-B accommodation requests are submitted here: <https://aar.navcanada.ca>

ADS-B mandate in Class B airspace

The next phase of the Canadian ADS-B mandate is now just around the corner, with Class B airspace also requiring ADS-B equipage effective May 16, 2024. Given the oxygen requirements in un-pressurized aircraft, and the benefits of higher cruising altitudes for pressurized aircraft, there are a limited number of air operators in Canada that operate fleets in Class B airspace that don't also climb into Class A airspace. NAV CANADA has begun reaching out to some of the affected air operators to determine if accommodations may be required. Air operators who believe they will require additional time to equip aircraft in their fleets in accordance with the coming Class B mandate can contact NAV CANADA at service@navcanada.ca to determine if blanket accommodation agreements might be appropriate.

Flight planning requirements

Regardless of the class of airspace, it is important that all aircraft operators be aware of requirements when flight planning so that confirmation of ADS-B capability is appropriately ingested into flight data processing systems and shown on surveillance displays used by air traffic services.

Aircraft operators entering ADS-B mandatory airspace must file the following ADS-B equipage codes in Item 10 of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) flight plan, as appropriate:

- B1 (ADS-B with dedicated 1,090 MHz ADS-B “Out” capability); or
- B2 (ADS-B with dedicated 1,090 MHz ADS-B “Out” and “In” capability).

In addition to the B1 or B2 code, aircraft equipped in accordance with the Canadian ADS-B Out mandate must also include CANMANDATE in item 18 of the flight plan following the SUR/ indicator, such as in the following two examples:

- SUR/CANMANDATE
- SUR/260B RSP180 A2 CANMANDATE

For additional information on ADS-B, please refer to AIP CANADA ENR section 1.6.3 available here: <https://www.navcanada.ca/en/aeronautical-information/aip-canada.aspx>

Looking ahead

The implementation of any subsequent Canadian ADS-B mandate in Class C, Class D or Class E airspace will occur no sooner than 2028, pending further assessment and engagement with stakeholders.

Again, we thank you for your support as we realize the safety and efficiency benefits offered by ADS-B in Class B airspace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Dawson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Dawson
Assistant Vice-President, Operational Support
NAV CANADA