

FAO IFR/GAT Aircraft Operators and CFSPs Operating in EU Member States, Norway & Switzerland

Date: 4th November 2025

Subject: NM B2B FF-ICE Testing & OPS Validation Planning

Contact: nm.b2boffice@eurocontrol.int

The European Commission Common Project One (CP1) regulation mandates that from the 1st of January 2026, general air traffic, operating under IFR in the FIRs/UIRs of EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland, must exchange FF-ICE flight plans and messages instead of ICAO 2012 flight plan messages.

EUROCONTROL NM has been designated as the FF-ICE Services Unit for the IFPZ area and provides all of the FF-ICE services (except the planning service) through the NM B2B services. The FF-ICE services are available through two B2B platforms; PREOPS and OPS. Access to both platforms require clients to have the necessary B2B certificates and in the case of the OPS platform, successful completion of the operational validation process.

The PREOPS platform is made available to users for application development, testing and validation. The objective of PREOPS testing and the operational validation process is to ensure the smooth transition of client applications to the OPS platform. The estimated duration for completion of a full operational validation is 1 month and for some operators this may be reduced to a light operational validation when the same flight planning application has already successfully completed full operational validation. In certain cases, some operators may access the FF-ICE services using their CFSP's or "parent" operator's certificate, with PREOPS/OPS monitoring based on a declaration of use instead of operational validation.

As we approach the CP1 mandate applicability deadline, the EUROCONTROL NM B2B operational validation team is experiencing a surge in demand from CFSPs and operators for completion of operational validation. However, there is limited capacity to deal with this demand and therefore careful planning is required to enable operators and CFSPs to complete their operational validation in as timely a manner as possible, while minimising any risk to NM operations.

As the situation stands at the beginning of November, it is evident that not all operators will be able to successfully deploy FF-ICE in time for the CP1 mandate deadline. These operators and CFSPs should note that EUROCONTROL NM has implemented mixed mode operations will continue to accept the submission of ICAO 2012 flight plan messages for the foreseeable future.

To support efficient planning and minimise delays in accessing FF-ICE services, EUROCONTROL NM kindly requests that affected operators and CFSPs submit their FF-ICE deployment timelines to the email address provided above as early as possible to enable the scheduling of their operational validation.

Operators that have completed operational validation are encouraged to start submitting FF-ICE flight plans as soon as possible to the OPS platform.

SUPPORTING EUROPEAN AVIATION

Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Comprehensive Agreement States: Israel, Morocco.