



# Interim MATS Amendment

## IMA V68\_01

<b>Title</b>	Airspace Releases		
<b>Valid from</b>	2406180100	<b>Valid to</b>	2409041600
<b>CRC</b>	35469		
<b>Replaces</b>	Nil		
<b>Background</b>	<p>Airspace releases are a legitimate tool for controllers to efficiently manage workload. However, airspace releases used to transfer entire sector volumes to controllers who do not hold a valid endorsement create regulatory compliance issues with our ATC licensing requirements.</p> <p>This change restricts ad-hoc airspace releases between civil ATC units and sectors to a <b>portion of a sector</b>. Entire sectors cannot be <i>released</i> to another controller under the guise of an airspace release. Where this needs to be done, combining positions/sectors/roles is the appropriate mechanism.</p> <p>Furthermore, the controller responsible for the unreleased portion of the sector must be appropriately endorsed. This is to ensure they can provide support to the unendorsed controller with the airspace release, including cancelling the release at short notice if required.</p> <p>Finally, there is no requirement for a controller accepting an ad-hoc airspace release to hold a valid endorsement for that airspace. Note 1 to clause 2.4.5.1 has been amended to replace 'appropriately <i>licensed</i> controllers' with 'appropriately <i>rated</i> controllers' to remove any doubt that a controller accepting an airspace release does not require an endorsement for that airspace but does require an appropriate rating.</p>		

<b>What to do with this IMA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using a highlighter, colour the clause number of every clause affected by this IMA.</li> <li>• Where a new clause is inserted draw a line across the page to show readers the insertion point.</li> <li>• When a clause is inserted or deleted, renumber subsequent clauses.</li> <li>• Put this IMA into the front cover sleeve.</li> <li>• Sign the IMA Check-off Table on the sleeve.</li> <li>• If this IMA is not effective immediately, the MATS Electronic Edition will be pending under the 'Other Documents' title on the MATS webpage.</li> </ul>
<b>Clause number</b>	<b>Action</b>
2.4.5.1	Clause amended
2.4.5.2	Clause added
2.4.5.2.1	Clause added

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### **2.4.5.1    Airspace release**

Arrange the release of airspace by voice and with mutual agreement of the respective controlling/administering authorities.

**Note 1:** *Only appropriately rated controllers may accept an airspace release.*

**Note 2:** *A civil ATS unit may subsequently relinquish a release back to the controlling/administering authority.*

### **2.4.5.2    Ad-hoc airspace releases between civil ATC units/sectors**

Civil ATC units/sectors may arrange ad hoc airspace releases between each other for a portion of a sector provided an appropriately endorsed controller remains responsible for the unreleased portion.

#### **2.4.5.2.1    ATS Contingencies**

Do not use ad hoc airspace releases for an ATS contingency unless in accordance with the relevant contingency plan.

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