



NATIONAL AIRSPACE COMMITTEE

(NASCOM CONSTITUTION)

1. CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

7st April 2015

- 1.1 During the late 1970s, a Commission was appointed by the Department of Transport and tasked to review the airspace structure and associated procedures within the Gauteng area providing recommendations to the then Commissioner for Civil Aviation, (currently the Director of Civil Aviation – hereinafter referred to as “Director”), as to amendments needed for improving safety levels.
- 1.2 Some time after the Commission’s work was done, a need to regularly review airspace utilisation throughout the RSA was identified and the National Airspace Committee, (NASCOM), was established. The intention of the NASCOM, (originally termed NAC) was to afford all users, service providers and the regulating authorities a forum where amendments to airspaces, associated routes and facilities, could be debated, thereby providing the Director with transparent, sound and complete information prior to, and as guidance for, the publication of any needed changes.
- 1.3 Since the establishment and successful running of NASCOM, major changes, such as the introduction of commercialised air traffic and navigational services, (by the Air Traffic and Navigation Services Company - ATNS), has necessitated a review of the functions, mandate and constitution of NASCOM.
- 1.4 Although ATNS has been mandated through legislation (Air Traffic and Navigation Services Company Act, Act No. 45 of 1993), to provide air traffic and associated services for South Africa, there are definite cases where the Director, in consultation with ATNS, may delegate airspace to other service providers who, at this stage, may not be bound by the same principles as ATNS. The users of such airspace need to be consulted on service levels on a regular basis, thus necessitating a forum for users to voice their opinions with respect to these services and infrastructures.
- 1.5 In terms of Regulation 11.05.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 2011, the Director is required to institute a National Airspace Committee (NASCOM).

2. NASCOM CONSTITUTION

2.1 Mandate

The National Airspace Committee (NASCOM) has been established, in terms of regulation 11.05.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 2011, to provide a forum where the CAA and organisations which provide services in the national airspace as well as the users of such airspace can consider the construction, amendment and usage of such airspace. NASCOM shall ensure that such airspace adequately protects any flight procedures designed for such airspace.

- 2.1.1 NASCOM is tasked to, inter alia, provide the Director with clear guidelines and recommendations in respect of the appropriate designation of airspace in terms of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 2011.
- 2.1.2 Airspace may only be strategically designated after consultation with NASCOM and in relation to the air traffic services which are to be provided. Any such designation shall be made by the Director in terms of Regulations 172.02.1, 91.06.19 and 91.06.20 and shall be published in accordance with Regulation 172.02.1 (3).
- 2.1.3 NASCOM shall only consider relevant matters relating to current or proposed airspace structures and associated services provided or intended to be provided within such airspace structures or any amendment thereof, including any such matter referred to it by the Director.
- 2.1.4 Where agreement cannot be reached, the proposals and objections thereon must be forwarded to the Director who will consider the matter, and with due regard to the information supplied and relevant safety aspects, make a ruling.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

- 3.1 All users and service providers who have an interest in airspace construction, amendment and utilisation shall be represented on NASCOM by organisations and not on an individual basis. Commercial and private civil aviation organisations, stakeholder bodies and statutory bodies as recognised by the Director shall appoint individuals who are to represent their organisations in NASCOM. Such appointees shall declare any aviation interests to the Director and shall keep such declarations up to date. Each organisation participating in NASCOM shall send a maximum of two of its nominated group of representatives to participate in NASCOM activities. Each organisation shall nominate contact points. Observers shall be permitted at the discretion of the Chair.

- 3.2 Organisations and member stakeholder bodies must notify the DCA in writing of their nominated representatives that will be attending meetings. . Any changes during the year to an organisation's nominated members shall be notified in writing to the Director.
- 3.3 Experts in their respective fields may, with consent of the Chairperson, be called upon to present a specific case on an ad hoc basis.
- 3.4 Workgroups consisting of members of NASCOM and, where necessary, selected experts may be established by the Chairperson in order to investigate and evaluate proposals made regarding to airspace matters. Any such workgroup shall be given clear terms of reference by the Chairperson in respect of status, mandate, specific considerations, reporting lines & required outputs.
- 3.5 A member organisation ceases to be a member if that organisation is not represented in six consecutive meetings without any apology. Such an organisation may apply for readmission as a member of NASCOM and may be readmitted providing good cause is shown. The Director must confirm such readmissions.
- 3.6 Member organisations of NASCOM, as of the date of adoption of this revised Constitution, are listed in Appendix A.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF NASCOM

- 4.1 The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) shall chair meetings of NASCOM, provide it with Secretariat services and be responsible for its associated administrative duties.
- 4.2 Unless specifically permitted by the Chair, and under conditions specified for such permission, experts or stakeholders invited to make presentations to NASCOM shall not sit in the NASCOM meetings outside of the times of presentation and questions-and-answer sessions where the presenter's response is required.
- 4.3 The Chairperson of each Workgroup established in terms of clause 3.4 above shall provide such working group with Secretariat services and be responsible for its associated administrative duties.

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Submissions or proposals requiring a decision by NASCOM for recommendation to the Director shall be made in the form of an appropriately detailed working paper. Working papers shall be submitted to the NASCOM Secretariat at least six weeks in advance of the meeting in which they are to be addressed. The format of a working paper shall be as prescribed in Appendix B.

- 5.2 Appropriately detailed graphic presentations must accompany submissions proposing the demarcation of airspace boundaries.
- 5.3 Submissions in the form of information papers may also be made as prescribed in Appendix B.
- 5.4 The minutes of the previous meeting, the agenda, and copies of working & information papers shall be distributed at least four weeks prior to the meeting.
- 5.5 Recommendations of the NASCOM shall be forwarded to the Director for decision or ratification.
- 5.6 Any amendments to this Constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority of members present during the meeting at which such amendments are tabled. Each member organisation shall have one vote.

6. PERMANENT CRITERIA

- 6.1 ICAO Standards will have pre-eminence and, where appropriate, recommended practices as well as international best practices will be the foundation for proposals, with obvious regard for the relevant South African legislation.
- 6.2 Adequate consultation between various service providers and affected parties must have been undertaken prior to submission of any amendments of airspace boundaries or dependent procedures. Records of such consultations and any agreements reached must be presented to NASCOM.
- 6.3 All restricted, danger and prohibited airspaces shall be reviewed annually by the CAA and reported to NASCOM in accordance with the National Airspace Master Plan.
- 6.4 Any airspace re-structuring must be to the benefit of the majority of users.
- 6.5 The last NASCOM meeting of the year shall consider the need for a review of the National Airspace Master Plan.


7. GENERAL

- 7.1 Applications for airport licenses, heliport licenses and helistop approvals, as well as significant changes to existing airport and heliport licences, and the establishment of airports, heliports or helistops within controlled airspace and under a Terminal Control Area, (TMA), or within 10nm of

any Control Zone, (CTR) boundary, shall be referred to NASCOM, due to the inseparable association with airspace allocation, prior to final approval.

7.2 NASCOM will meet quarterly unless the situation dictates more frequent meetings, which will be co-ordinated by the Secretariat.

7.3 The Secretariat will issue a résumé of all amendments forwarded for implementation together with a progress report at least once annually.


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Gawie Bestbier
CHAIRMAN

Date: 19/03/15


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Poppy Khoza
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL
AVIATION

Date: 07/04/15

APPENDIX A

NASCOM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS			
CAA	ATNS	ALPA-SA	CAASA (includes AAA-SA)
AOPA	SAAF	BARSA	AASA
DoT	AERoclub OF SOUTH AFRICA	ACSA	GATCSA
SSSA	RAASA		



Section/division
Telephone number:
Physical address
Postal address:

Air Traffic Services
011-545-1000
Ikhaya Lokundiza, 16 Treur Close, Waterfall Park, Bekker Street, Midrand, Gauteng
Private Bag X73, Halfway House 1685

Form Number: CA 172-23
Fax Number: 011 545 1282
Website: www.caa.co.za

NASCOM WORKING PAPER / INFORMATION PAPER*

APPENDIX B*

NATIONAL AIRSPACE COMMITTEE

(NASCOM)

Agenda Item	(Heading/Subject)	
Proposer	(Organisation & Name of Person)	
SUMMARY		
Brief outline and background of content including:		
• Interest of Proposer		
• Status quo		
• Recommendation		
1. INTRODUCTION		
1.1		
1.2		
2. DISCUSSION		
2.1		
2.2		
3. ACTIONS PROPOSED*		
3.1		
3.2		
4. CONCLUSION		
4.1		
<i>*Delete which is not applicable</i>		
SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON/ SECRETARY NASCOM	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE