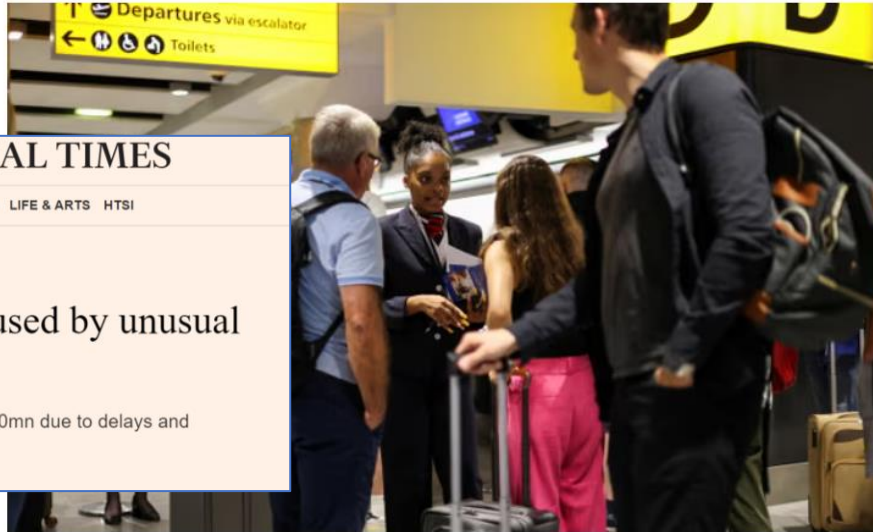# MRN Update

A cautionary tale of identifiers and their value

UK air traffic failure blamed on 'extremely rare' circumstances as CAA opens inquiry

Technical report confirms error triggered by flight plan caused [...] re than 2,000 flights cancelled

Hundreds more flights cancelled in fallout from UK air traffic control failure
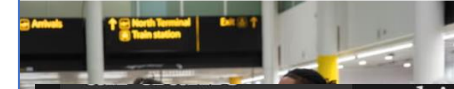
Airlines told to take 'every possible step' to aid stranded passengers as costs of travel disruption mount

chaos

→ Read more

which was correctly submitted by an incoming airline – forced the system to stop processing flight plans automatically, leaving controllers to handle operations manually.

Nats said the failure was due to "an extremely rare set of circumstances" with two identically named but separate waypoint markers outsidethe UK's airspace – a scenario that has not occurred in more than 15m flight plans previously processed in the five years that the current system has operated.

Nats said its report confirmed that the failure did not present any danger and that it had now found a fix to prevent it happening again.

FINANCIAL TIMES

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NATS Ltd (+ Add to myFT)

UK air traffic control outage caused by unusual flight plan data

Airlines call on Nats to cover costs that could amount to £100mn due to delays and cancellations

📷 A British Airways staff member tries to help passengers at Heathrow airport on Monday. Photograph: Hollie Adams/Reuters

Hundreds more flights were cancelled on Tuesday as the fallout from Monday's UK air traffic control failure continued to disrupt travel, with the government telling airlines to take every step to help stranded passengers.

Many holidaymakers remain unable to return home for several days, and Downing Street said airlines should fulfil their responsibilities to passengers

MRN Guidance

- NIPWG VTC approved use of MRN format to designate organizational identifiers in S-100 Part 15 certificates.

- Group convened to review current guidance and suggest next steps and any modifications required.

- Existing guidance provides comprehensive technical advice for use of MRNs for multiple purposes
  - Naming features (in the context of S-100 GFM) using attributes
  - Naming IHO publications
  - IHO Data products

- There is currently no S-100 ECDIS specific provision in regard to MRN, nor any concrete proposals to define any.

- Member State and IHO (Secretariat) level

What needs to happen?

- Existing technical guidance is rigorous and extensive.

- To implement MRN across these domains (IHO Publications, IHO data products, S-100 feature instances) requires different actions

- Much can also be learnt from our existing IHO scheme "FOID", how it is set up and how it has evolved

  - IHO Level can be implemented independently as long as it is manageable and scalable long term

  - S-100 feature instances can be delegated to individual data producers using producer codes (as per FOID).

  - There would be a need to supplement any scheme with validation tests

- Persistent unique identifiers have great application beyond SOLAS/Navigation. Need to connect implementation of MRN with activities in MSDIWG/UN-GGIM and other communities (e.g OGC).

6.3.2.10 Feature Object Identifier field - FOID

NB : All subfield values are encoded as binary.

Tag	subfield name	use	value	comment
AGEN	Producing agency	M		
FIND	Feature identification number	M		
FIDS	Feature identification subdivision	M		

table 6.11

Plan

- Would be good to meet during NIPWG if anyone is interested? Breakout group possibly?

- VTC meeting during October

- Focus on:
  - Reviewing existing technical guidance
  - Establishing practical steps for implementation in conjunction with IHO secretariat
  - Connection with external groups