



SARTIME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A SARTIME?

SARTIME is an abbreviation for 'time search action required'. A SARTIME is the time nominated by a pilot for the initiation of Search and Rescue (SAR) action. SAR action will commence at this time, so it is important that the SARTIME nominated allows enough time for landing and return to your flight ops.

WHAT IS A FLIGHT NOTE?

A Flight Note is 'details of the route and timing of a proposed flight provided by the pilot in command of an aircraft, which is other than notification submitted to Airservices Australia, and which is required to be left with a person who could be expected to notify appropriate authorities in the event that the flight becomes overdue'.

AM I REQUIRED TO LODGE A SARTIME OR FLIGHT NOTE?

AIP states that VFR flights in the following categories are required to submit a SARTIME flight notification to ATS, or, as an alternative, to leave a Flight Note with a responsible person:

- a. Regular Public Transport (RPT) and Charter (CHTR) flights
- b. over-water flights
- c. flights in Designated Remote Areas
- d. flights at night proceeding beyond 120NM from the aerodrome of departure. (*AIP ENR 1.10-4, 2.11*)

Further, Air Work (AWK) and Private (PVT) VFR operations are neither formally required to submit a SARTIME nor a Flight Note. However, for search and rescue purposes, it is highly recommended that at the very minimum you lodge a Flight Note. (*AIP ENR 1.10-6, 2.20*)

What does this mean?

For VFR flights, this means that, if you leave a Flight Note with a responsible person there is no requirement to formally lodge a SARTIME with Airservices.

As an alternative to a SARTIME, it is good practice to use an ICAO Flight Notification whenever possible, and ensure a responsible person nominated by you eg friend, relative, flying school or company—can hold watch on your safe arrival.

HOW DO I LODGE, AMEND OR CANCEL A SARTIME?

Online: The best way to lodge, amend and cancel your SARTIME is online. For example, you may nominate a SARTIME using an ICAO Flight Notification. NAIPS Internet Service provides automatic confirmation of successful flight notification.

Phone: You can lodge, amend and cancel your SARTIME by phoning Airservices on 1800 814 931.

Radio: If you don't have online access or access to a phone, you can lodge, amend and cancel your SARTIME by radio (HF or VHF). Remember that there may be some delays due to operator workload or HF interference.

CAN I LODGE MORE THAN ONE SARTIME AT A TIME?

No. Only one SARTIME per flight notification may be entered. If more than one SARTIME is required, then 'TBA' should be entered for the remaining legs.

I HAVE NOMINATED A SARTIME FOR THE FIRST LEG OF MY FLIGHT. WHY SHOULD I INSERT 'TBA' FOR SUBSEQUENT FLIGHT LEGS IF I INTEND TO NOMINATE A SARTIME FOR IT LATER?

If you enter 'TBA' into the DTG field, the process for nominating a SARTIME later is streamlined for the SARTIMEs operator because CENSAR will be holding all the details of your flight, unlike blank DTG fields which don't get sent to CENSAR at all. When you have completed each leg, and wish to nominate a SARTIME for the next leg (through NIS or by calling 1800 814 931) the SARTIME operator simply changes TBA to the DTG nominated.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FORGET TO CANCEL MY SARTIME?

Managing your SARTIME and cancelling it at the end of your flight is a critical responsibility for any pilot in command. It ensures that Airservices and the emergency response authorities know that you have arrived safely. It prevents unnecessary search and rescue operations—a highly resource intensive, and at times, costly process:

- any SARTIME not cancelled is immediately subject to communications checks. During 2016, 8452 were conducted by Airservices to follow up expired SARTIMEs
- communications checks consist of:
 - a phone call to the pilot's nominated contact number or numbers
 - radio calls broadcast on HF and VHF
 - checks with towered aerodromes to establish if the aircraft has arrived safely.
- the process of conducting communications checks results in increased workload for:
 - the SARTIMEs operator
 - HF operators
 - air traffic controllers and tower controllers.

- if contact with the pilot is not made within 30 minutes, the flight details will be subject to escalation (phase action) to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC), or military SAR authority—Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC).

THERE WON'T BE ANY PHONE RECEPTION AT MY DESTINATION. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If there is no phone reception at your destination, you may cancel your SARTIME on HF on arrival. If your aircraft is not equipped with HF you may contact sector and request them to cancel your SARTIME. You may need to do this in the air as VHF coverage may be limited on the ground.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I FORGET TO CANCEL MY SARTIME?

You should call SARTIMEs on 1800 814 931

WHEN I CALL 1800 814 931, WHY SHOULD I KEEP MY CALL SHORT?

Keeping the call short will ensure the most efficient service can be provided. An example of a typical call is 'ABC cancel SARTIME 0700 for arrival at Archerfield'.

I'VE ALREADY CANCELLED MY SARTIME ON 1800 814 931, SHOULD I ALSO SEND AN ARRIVAL/CANCELLATION MESSAGE THROUGH NIS?

No. There is no need to confirm your verbal instruction by sending a cancellation or arrival report on NIS.



I CALLED 1800 814 931 AND CANCELLED MY SARTIME—SO WHY IS MY SARTIME STILL IN MY NIS (NAIPS INTERNET SERVICE) FLIGHT PLAN?

NIS (NAIPS Internet Service) talks to CENSAR, but CENSAR doesn't talk to NIS. So, if a change to a SARTIME is made in NAIPS, the change will take effect in the CENSAR database, however, if a change is made to your SARTIME in the CENSAR database by the SARTIMEs operator, no change will be seen in NIS.

I SAW MY FRIEND LAND SAFELY WHY CAN'T I CANCEL THEIR SARTIME?

Due to safety standards, SARTIME operators may only cancel a SARTIME if in contact with the pilot who nominated the SARTIME or at the direction of JRCC.

WHY CAN'T I NOMINATE A SARTIME FOR NEXT WEEK?

You can nominate a SARTIME up to 5 days in advance, this limitation is required to conform to other flight planning requirements.

WHY IS IT REQUIRED THAT I PUT MY PHONE NUMBER IN THE ORGN/ FIELD OF MY FLIGHT PLAN?

This allows the SARTIME operator to recall your phone number, even if you have cancelled your flight plan in NIS.

I CALLED 1800 814 931 AND WAS ON HOLD FOR A LONG TIME. WHY?

During peak periods two SARTIME specialists are on duty and normally calls are answered quickly. However if the specialists are trying to contact pilots who have failed to cancel their SARTIMEs, the workload involved in carrying out this function can result in delays. If all pilots cancelled their SARTIME prior to expiry, the waiting time would be reduced for all.

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT MY FLIGHT PLAN, OR NEED TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO MY FLIGHT PLAN, OTHER THAN A SARTIMEs QUESTION, CAN THE SARTIMEs OPERATOR HELP?

All flight planning questions and amendments should be directed to the BOF 1800 805 150

DO I REQUIRE A FPL?

Pilots of VFR flights intending to operate in controlled airspace (except for VFR flights in Class E airspace) must submit flight details to ATS. The preferred method of submitting flight details is to lodge an ICAO Flight Notification, see *ERSA GEN-PF-4 6. Flight Notification*.

