

PACIFIC OCEANIC

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

1 Administration

1.1 Document Control

Appendix 1 contains the list versions, effective dates, and change history of this agreement.

1.2 Definitions

VATSIM.....Virtual Air Traffic Simulation Network (www.vatsim.net)

GCAP..... VATSIM Global Air Traffic Control Policy

PO..... Participating Organisation

1.3 Purpose

To provide quality Air Traffic Services to VATSIM members flying through and operating within oceanic airspace of participating organisations.

1.4 Background Information

The Pacific Oceanic Partnership agreement was originally created in 2006 to provide more access to all pacific oceanic positions to the controllers from VATPAC and VATUSA. The partnership was soon joined by VATNZ when that division was established. The original partnership agreement was dissolved in 2021, in favour of this Letter of Agreement offering participating divisions more flexibility whilst also ensuring the agreement meets modern requirements and policy.

1.5 Participating Organisations

1.5.1 List of Participating Organisations

A VATSIM Division or ARTCC listed below, is a participating organisation in this agreement.

Participating Organisation	Nominated Representative
VATUSA - Oakland ARTCC	Anthony Santanastaso (vatusa1@vatusa.net) Rick Rump (vatusa6@vatusa.net) Ryan Parry (atm@oakartcc.org)
VATPAC	Zach Fitton (director@vatpac.org)
VATNZ	Andrew Moseley (director@vatnz.net)
VATJPN	Masaki Hasuike (director@vatjpn.org)
VATMEX	Mauricio Esparza (vatmex1@vatmex.com.mx)

1.5.2 Becoming a Participating Organisation

To become a PO, an application must be made in writing to any of the existing representatives for review by all PO representatives and a vote must be undertaken as per section 1.9 of this agreement.

1.5.3 Leaving as a Participating Organisation

A PO may leave the agreement, with at least 90 days prior notice, in writing to all PO representatives. During the notice period, all parties should attempt to reconcile any differences or concerns that may prevent that PO from leaving.

1.6 Representatives

A PO must list at least one contactable representative's name and email address.

PO representatives must be included on any correspondence that relates to this agreement.

An email ring is to be the primary means of communication between PO representatives.

1.6.1 Meeting of Representatives

PO representatives must meet collectively at least once per calendar year, to review the agreement and make amendments and changes as required.

Brief meeting minutes must be recorded in appendix 2 of this agreement.

1.7 Breaches

A PO found to have been in breach of this agreement may be subject to removal from the agreement by form of a vote, as per section 1.9 of this agreement, except that the PO in question is ineligible to vote.

1.8 Amendments

Amendments to this agreement must be reviewed by a representative from each PO. A PO will have a 14-day period, from the date the amendment was distributed, to review and respond.

Once the review period is completed, a vote in accordance with section 1.9 of this agreement, is required to enforce the amendments.

Notwithstanding the above requirement, a representative for a PO may be updated, without requiring a vote.

1.9 Voting

Where a vote is required by this agreement, that vote must be undertaken by a representative from all PO's and an absolute majority must be achieved before the vote is considered to have passed.

Note that a PO is entitled to a maximum of 1 vote, regardless of whether that PO has more than 1 representative.

1.10 Termination

This agreement may be terminated at any time, by vote in accordance with section 1.9 of this agreement, except that at least three quarters of all votes must be in favour of the termination before the vote is considered to have passed.

In the event of a hung vote, the VATSIM Vice President of Asia Pacific and Vice President of Americas should make all attempts to mediate the discussions and resolve a solution.

2 Agreement

This agreement allows a **permitted controller** from a PO to operate a **permitted oceanic control position** of another PO, provided that the following requirements are met:

1. The controller is a **permitted controller**; and
2. The controller meets all minimum currency requirements of their local PO, including the requirements of section 2.3.1 of this agreement; and
3. The controller must familiarise themselves with any Local Instructions applicable to the oceanic control position that they are intending to operate.

2.1 Permitted Controller

A permitted controller is a local or visiting controller of a PO who has an **Oceanic Control Endorsement** in accordance with section 3 of this agreement.

NOTE: A controller from a PO need not visit another PO to control a **permitted oceanic control position**.

2.2 Permitted Oceanic Control Position

A permitted oceanic control position is:

1. a control position that provides services to aircraft operating in oceanic control areas; and
2. a control position nominated by a PO and belonging to that PO.

2.3 Requirements of a Participating Organisation

A PO must maintain and make publicly available:

1. a list of permitted oceanic control positions; and
2. a list of permitted controllers (differentiating active from inactive) and
3. Local Instructions (differences material) such that a permitted controller would be able to gain knowledge of local policy and procedure, applicable to that PO.

A PO must, at least once per calendar year, host an event that includes at least one of their permitted oceanic control positions, and must notify all other PO representatives of the event, such that it may be promoted by other PO's.

2.3.1 Currency Requirement

For the purposes of this agreement only:

1. A PO must require a permitted controller to log 1 hour on a permitted oceanic position, within the previous 3 months, for them to be considered active, and
2. A permitted controller who does not meet the hour requirement specified above, will be considered inactive; and
3. An inactive permitted controller may become active again, by performing a buddy session with a permitted controller who is approved to do so by that PO; and
4. Any additional currency or activity requirements imposed by a PO on local or visiting controllers do not apply to permitted controllers.

3 Oceanic Control Endorsement

3.1 General

An oceanic control area is designated as Restricted Airspace. To operate a control position in an oceanic control area, an Oceanic Control Endorsement is required.

A PO must provide an Oceanic Control Endorsement training course for their local controller to achieve, which covers the minimum requirements outlined in section 3.2 of this agreement.

Notwithstanding the above, the Oceanic Control Endorsement training course conducted by a PO may include additional material outside the scope of this agreement.

Additionally, a PO may, through mutual agreement with another PO, include in their training syllabus, content applicable to that PO's local policy and procedure.

For clarification, a PO is not permitted to conduct any form of assessment on any controller or **permitted oceanic control position** from another PO, for the purposes of obtaining an Oceanic Control Endorsement.

3.2 Minimum Requirements

To be eligible to hold an Oceanic Control Endorsement, a candidate must:

1. Hold an ATC rating of Enroute Controller (C1) or higher; and
2. Have logged no less than 50 hours at an enroute position; and
3. Complete training and assessment covering, at a minimum, the following items of competency:
 - a. Basic Oceanic Principles:
 - i. Classes of airspace; and
 - ii. VATSIM limitations.
 - b. Principle of Procedural Control Services; and
 - c. Basic Procedural Separation Standards:
 - i. Time; and
 - ii. Distance; and
 - iii. Vertical.
 - d. Principles of SELCAL
 - e. Position Reports; and
 - f. Communication:
 - i. Oceanic Phraseology; and
 - ii. CPDLC; and
 - iii. HF.
 - g. Coordination between ATC units; and
 - h. Information pertaining to this Letter of Agreement.

Assessment for the Oceanic Control Endorsement is by means of a written theory examination, followed by either a live OTS assessment or a simulated practical assessment.

4 Appendix

4.1 Appendix 1 – Version Control

Version	Effective Date	Change History
1.0	23 SEP 21 0200 UTC	New Agreement.
1.1	23 AUG 22 0200 UTC	Clarified language for permitted controllers and certification, corrected typos, added VATJPN and VATMEX.

4.2 Appendix 2 – Meeting Minutes

Nil.