GEN 2 TABLES AND CODES

GEN 2.1 MEASURING SYSTEM, AIRCRAFT MARKINGS, HOLIDAYS

1. Units of measurement

The units of measurement of the international system of units (SI) are officially adopted in Switzerland.
Standard application of specific units of measurement (ICAO Annex 5)
The application of units of measurement for certain quantities commonly used in international civil aviation air and ground operations shall be in accordance with the following table.

	Unit	Non SI alternative unit
altitude (also elevation)	m	**ft**
distance (long)	km	**NM**
distance (short)	m	
height	m	**ft**
latitude	° ' ''	
longitude	° ' ''	
runway length	m	
runway visual range	m	
time	s min h d	
visibility	km	
wind direction (for landing and take-off in degrees magnetic, in other cases in degrees true)	°	
mass	kg; t	
altimeter setting, atmospheric pressure	hPa	
pressure	kPa; MPa	
airspeed, ground speed, wind speed	km/h	**kt**
vertical speed	m/s	**ft/min**
temperature	° C	

2. Temporal reference system

The co-ordinated universal time (UTC) is used in air traffic and communications services.
In some documents published by the AIM, local time (LT) is also used (e.g. AIC, SUP).
The Swiss time is the Central European Time (CET).
The central European time corresponds to universal time plus one hour (UTC+1).
The **Summer time** corresponds to universal time plus two hours (UTC+2).

During the **summer time** period in Switzerland the times given in brackets apply.
Example: 1130 - 1330 (1030 - 1230)

1130 - 1330 time period in UTC during winter period (outside Central Eurpean Summer Time)
(1030 - 1230) time period in UTC during summer period (during Central European Summer Time)

Summer time comes into force on the last Sunday of March at 0100 UTC.
It ends on the last Sunday of October at 0100 UTC.

3. Horizontal Reference System

3.1 Reference System:

All published geographical coordinates indicating latitude and longitude are expressed in terms of the World Geodetic System - 1984 (WGS-84) geodetic reference datum.

3.2 Area of application:

The area of application for the published geographical coordinates coincides with the area of responsibility of the Aeronautical Information Service, i.e. the entire territory of Switzerland.

3.3 Use of an asterisk to identify published geographical coordinates:

An asterisk (*) will be used to identify geographical coordinates which have been transformed into WGS-84 coordinates but whose accuracy does not meet the requirements in ICAO Annex 11, Chapter 2 and ICAO Annex 14, Volumes I and II, Chapter 2.

4. Vertical Reference System

4.1 Reference System

Ground elevations are expressed with reference to the Swiss height system (LN02). LN02 is an official vertical reference system used in Switzerland that is based on raw, leveled height differences. The maximum difference between elevations referenced to LN02 and EGM-96 is 3 m.

4.2 Geoid Undulation

The height difference between the ellipsoid (GNSS height reference) and the geoid (orthometric height reference) is called the geoid undulation. This value defines the distance of the geoid above (positive undulation of the geoid) or below (negative undulation of the geoid) the reference ellipsoid. The following relation applies: Geoid Undulation = Ellipsoidal Height - Orthometric Height (altitude).
The aeronautical information service publishes the value of the geoid undulation for each aerodrome. This value is expressed in feet. It shall be shown on the charts where GNSS height references are used.
NOTE: In Switzerland, the undulation is always positive (the geoid is above the WGS84 ellipsoid).
WARNING: The publication of geoid undulation does not modify any GPS restrictions for use. Particularly, the altitude information given by GPS shall NOT be used.

4.3 Use of an asterisk to identify published elevations

An asterisk (*) will be used to identify elevations which do not meet ICAO Annex 14 accuracy requirements.

5. Aircraft nationality and registration marks

The Swiss, as well as the Liechtenstein aircraft are registered on the Swiss Aircraft Register.

The nationality marks for **Swiss** aircraft consist of the letters HB and the national emblem of the Swiss Confederation.

The nationality marks for **Liechtenstein** aircraft consist of the letters HB and the national emblem of the Duchy of Liechtenstein.

The registration marks for **aeroplanes, helicopters, airships and balloons** consist of a group of three letters, located after a dash to the right of HB.

The registration marks for **motor gliders and gliders** consist of a group of up to four figures, located after a dash to the right of HB.

The Federal Office for Civil Aviation issues additional instructions regarding form and application of the nationality and registration marks (VKZ 748.216.1 GEN 1.6).

6. Public holidays

The following **general public holidays** apply in Switzerland

New Year (01. JAN)

Ascension Day

National holiday (01. AUG)

Christmas (25. DEC)

There exist also local and cantonal public holidays. REF: AD 2 and VFR Manual, AD INFO.

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