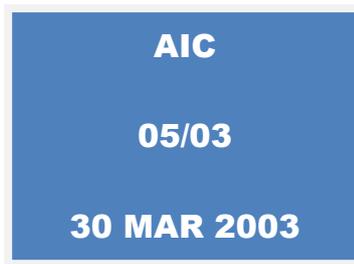


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## **Implementation and publication of the WGS-84 coordinate system in the Curacao FIR and the TCA of St. Maarten, effective 15 May 2003.**

The objective of this AIC is to inform of the implementation of the WGS- 84 geodetic reference system, which will become effective on **May 15, 2003** and the publication of these aeronautical coordinates in the AIP of the Netherlands Antilles.

Currently, the geographic coordinates in the Curacao FIR and in the Terminal Control Area of St. Maarten are expressed in local or regional coordinates based on the Clark 1886 system for the Caribbean Region.

In 1989 the ICAO Council approved the recommendation of the Committee for the Future of Air Navigation Systems (FANS) that a common global reference system be adopted for all aeronautical coordinates. It was further stated that the implementation of such a system was necessary for the introduction of area navigation (RNAV), the RNP and by making use of precision navigation (GPS). It was also agreed that the development of the required aeronautical charts be based on this system, which is recognized as an essential element for the effective application of future air navigation.

On January 1, 1998 the ICAO Council adopted Amendment No. 28 and 50 to ICAO Annex 15 and Annex 4, respectively, which stated that the geographical coordinates indicating latitude and longitude published by contracting shall be expressed in reference to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS-84) DOC 9674.

To this end, the Directorate of Civil Aviation developed a plan of action and in collaboration with the National Geographic Institute and assisted by NIMA the local airports were surveyed and documented, whereby the parameters for the transformation of the Clark 1886 to WGS-84 were defined.

After having completed this survey the changes affecting the new coordinates (e.g.: FIR Boundaries, Danger, Warning and Prohibited Areas, Route Network, SID/STARS, approach, aerodrome and obstacle charts), were processed in compliance with the requirements established by ICAO A Doc 9674, Annexes 11, 14 and 15.

The resulting modification of these coordinates for the Curacao FIR and the Terminal Control Area of St. Maarten are published in AIRAC SUP 02/03, dated 07 APR 03, with an effective date of **15 MAY 03**.