

Computer Says No: Why FAA RVSM Approvals Matter in Europe

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An OPSGROUP member recently received the following message after their N-Reg flight plan was **rejected** by Eurocontrol:

Error from Eurocontrol;

(R)PROF204 RS: TRAFFIC VIA ED EK LF LG LU LE LS LM GM LO:F285..F415 IS ON FORBIDDEN ROUTE
REF:[EURORMA1A] NO RVSM APPROVAL STATUS HELD BY EURRMA

Or in other words '**computer says no - it seems you're not RVSM approved...**'

The issue stemmed from something called NAARMO – the North American Approvals Registry and Monitoring Organisation.

This is the agency responsible for monitoring the safe and proper use of RVSM throughout North American airspace including the US, Canada and Mexico. They maintain a list of **every US-registered commercial and turbine GA aircraft approved to operate in RVSM airspace.**

It may come as a surprise, but this same list is used across the pond by Eurocontrol (and its monitoring agency).

OPSGROUP has been advised that every three months, Eurocontrol carry out a flight plan audit using the FAA NAARMO list to identify **non-approved aircraft operating in RVSM airspace.**

If a registration is flagged, after further consultation, it may be added to a list of aircraft which will have their **flight plans rejected.** This was the case above.

Herein lies the problem: **if your aircraft's RVSM-status is recorded incorrectly on the US NAARMO list, you may find your flight plans getting bounced over in Europe.**

If this happens to you, here's how to fix it.

Contact NAARMO directly.

Yep, even though it's a problem in European airspace **the solution rests with NAARMO** back in the US.

You'll need to figure out why your aircraft doesn't appear on the FAA's database, and get that corrected first, before Eurocontrol can **remove your aircraft from their naughty list**. Once you get it corrected on the NAARMO database, they are apparently pretty good at sending Eurocontrol a specific notification so they can remove it from their list too (the day they receive the update, or the next working day).

You may not have been intentionally naughty either. There are some quite innocent reasons why this may be case - usually **missing information** related to airworthiness or other overlooked details.

To get in touch with NAARMO directly, use this form and email it to naarmo@faa.gov.