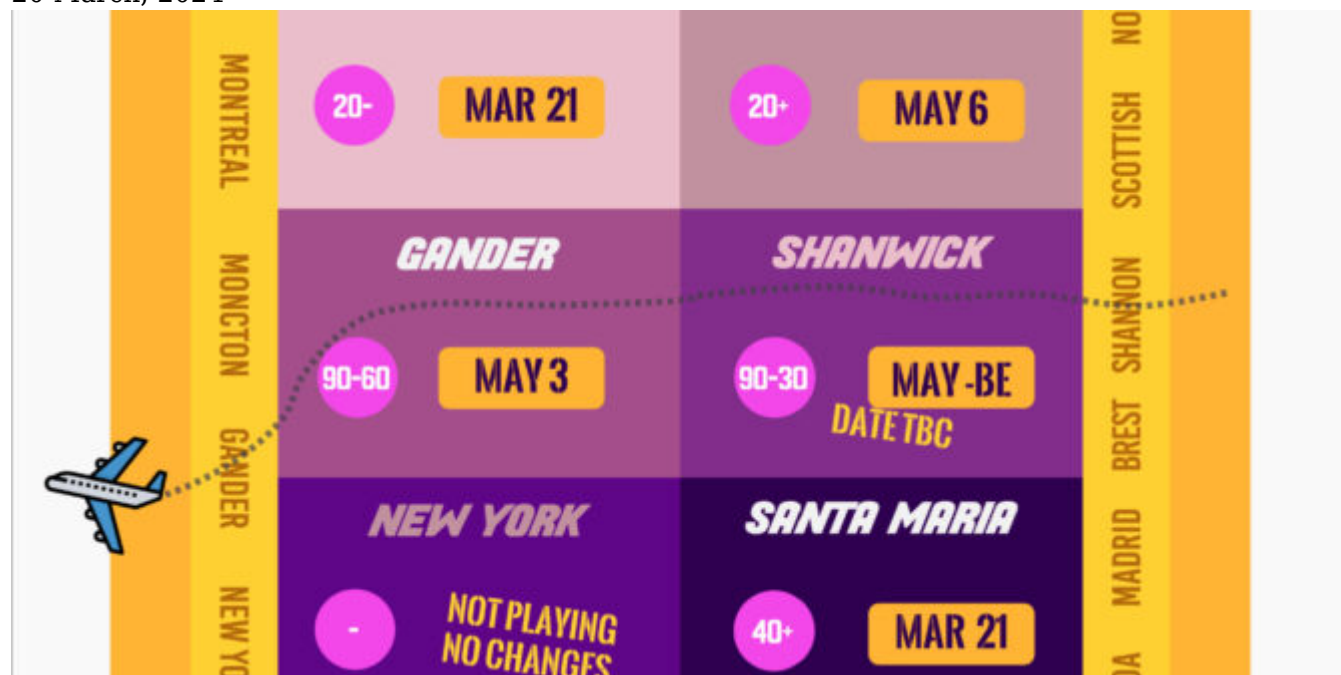


# NAT Clearance changes - a game!

The OPSGROUP Team  
20 March, 2024



- We've made a little game to help with Oceanic Clearances changes on the NAT.
- You can download it here.
- **Updated March 26, 2024 - Edition 2!**

### CLERANCE OR NO CLERANCE

A GAME FOR TWO TRANSATLANTIC PILOTS!

**PLAY THIS IF YOU WANT TO TRACK NAT TRACK CLEARANCES!**

**HOW TO PLAY**

- 1 Draw a line for your flight and make it go through all the ATC boxes you will talk to. Yellow = Domestic Acc's. Purple = Oceanic ACC's
- 2 Note the date in the purple boxes, and play Clearance or No Clearance!

### WHAT'S CHANGING

By summer of 2024, all OACC's on the NAT will stop transmitting an Oceanic Clearance to you. They still want you to send an "RCL" message, which used to mean "Request Clearance", but now it just means "Tell us your latest preferences". Think of it as Checkdink In.

OK, LET'S PLAY!

- 1 **SAME SAME**  
For your crossing, do everything that you normally do. Send the RCL at the normal time, with your DEP, Time, Speed (CT Mach), Level, and Max FL, and 2nd track/M pref if you like!  
Example: 1010 N032750-09/280 NAT A F750 NML F770  
This means send the RCL between 20 and 30 minutes before the Oceanic Entry Point (DEP)
- 2 **DIFFERENT**  
Check the Change date. If you are entering the OACC after the change date, you'll get a different response to the RCL, and you will not get an Oceanic Clearance.  
Each OACC is doing this on a different date  
CHANGE DATE
- 3 **CLEARANCE**  
RCL RECEIVED IF NO CLEARANCE. WITHIN 10 MIN CONTACT SHANNON BY VOICE.  
OLD 1010 N032750-09/280 NAT A F750 NML F770  
NEW 1010 N032750-09/280 NAT A F750 NML F770  
Set Speed: As per clearance  
REGAIN NORMAL SPEED
- 4 **NO CLEARANCE**  
RCL RECEIVED IF NO CLEARANCE. WITHIN 10 MIN CONTACT SHANNON BY VOICE.  
Set Speed: As per RCL (DECN)  
Widely change of Mach. 40 or more. Same as if you receive "Resume Normal Speed"

**SAME AS BEFORE**  
Once you enter the ocean and set speed, everything is the same as before.  
You do not need an Oceanic Clearance if entering "Clearance Required" Oceanic airspace from "No Clearance" Oceanic airspace.

### CONFUSIONS CLEARED UP (FAQ)

**VOICE**  
Instead of sending an RCL message, you can also use voice. Do this if ACARS is O/S, or if you're closer to the DEP than the RCL time guides. Some guess if you get "RCL REJECTED" or you don't get a response to the RCL message at all. There is no specific phraseology, so "RCLM SAC with voice RCL" should work.

**RCL TIME**  
Are the RCL times changing?  
Yes, the times are a little different now - noted in pink on the first page. Shannon and Gander are the same as before. Santa Maria want your RCL 40 minutes or more from the DEP. Island want it 20 mins or less before DEP. Bodo says 20 mins or more.

**WHY?**  
Why isn't this all happening on one day?  
This is question #1 for pilots it would be nice, for sure. The reason is the domino effect. If everyone was getting for one single day to make this change, there is a risk that one OACC taking a late stage would bring the whole project down. So everyone is doing it independently. It's pretty complex on the ATC side.

**TANGOS**  
What about the Tango Routes?  
These are all within the Shannon Oceanic area, so when the Oceanic Clearance Removal happens, this will apply to Tango Routes as well. Send the RCL at the normal time, and follow the "No Clearance" line on the chart. See the note on "Three Airports" if departing Ireland.

**IRELAND**  
Ireland - Proximity Airports  
These are airports close to the Oceanic boundary like Shannon (EIRK). Previously Oceanic Clearance was given on the ground. Since August 2023, you get your clearance airborne. After Shannon changes to "No Clearance Required" since May 2024, you just need to send an RCL at least 30 mins before DEP. One exception: Departing Cork (ECCV) via L4000 - you need an acknowledged RCL on the ground in 2024.

**OLD V NEW**  
What if new Oceanic Area has changed, but another hasn't?  
If you're entering "Clearance Required" oceanic airspace from a "No Clearance" oceanic area, you don't need an Oceanic Clearance. This area that matters is the first one you enter. Figure out your RCL situation with them, and once you enter the ocean, you're all good. For example, see Bodo's. No clearance required but Shannon can't get you just send your RCL to Gander, enter at the DEP, and they will take care of coordinating with Shannon.

Do you have a question not covered here? Don't worry, we're working on it, and we'll help you out - just ask us via our social media, or email us at ops@ops-group.com

Click to download PDF.

## Why the game?

By **Christmas** of 2024, all OACC's on the NAT will stop transmitting an Oceanic Clearance to you. They still want you to send an "RCL" message, which used to mean "Request Clearance", but now it just means "Tell us your latest preferences". Think of it as Checking In.

**There are different dates when Oceanic Clearances will cease to be issued in the following FIRs:**

- **Shanwick:** ~~April 9~~ ~~May~~ ~~Q4 2024~~ **December 3**
- **Gander:** ~~March~~ ~~May 3~~ **December 3**
- **Bodø:** ~~March~~ ~~May 6~~ **To be decided**
- **Santa Maria:** completed March 21
- **Iceland:** completed March 21

**But let there be no further blather about it here!** We've done enough of that already – check here for our previous post on the topic. **Just play the game - it's fun, and will tell you everything you need to know in 3 pages!** Print it out, share it, pin it on a wall somewhere if you so desire. We *do* so desire.

And if you have a question not covered in the game, send it to us at team@ops.group, and we'll help you out – and add it into the next version.

**Even more NAT goodies coming soon...**

Our in-house bakers at OPSGROUP HQ are currently hard at work perfecting the recipe for a new version of our **NAT Plotting & Planning chart** and **NAT Guide: My First North Atlantic Flight is Tomorrow** – valid for 2024.



**So start licking those lips, OPSGROUP members!** (And if you fly the North Atlantic now and then, and would like to help out with these two new docs, please send us an email or jump right into the #atlantic channel in Slack where we will be thrashing it out).

Happy Crossings! ✈️ 🗺️ ✈️