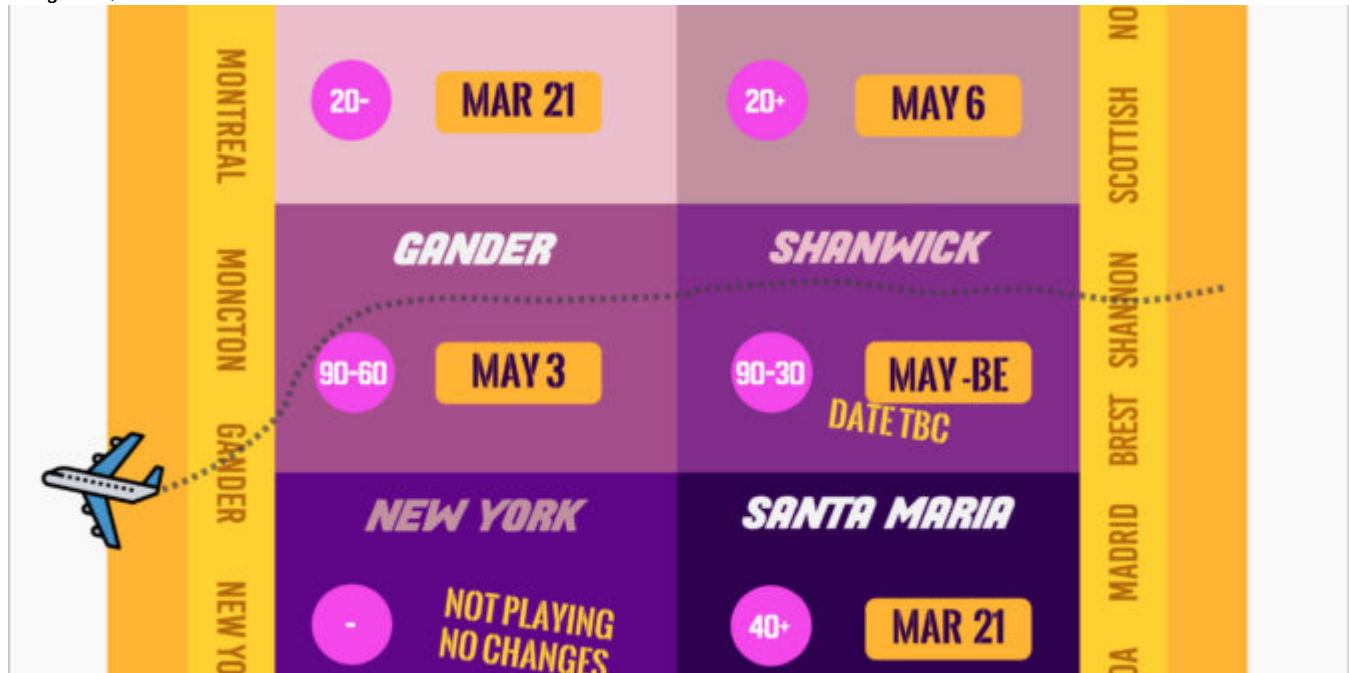


NAT Clearance changes - a game! (V4)

The OPSGROUP Team

19 June, 2024



- We've made a little game to help with Oceanic Clearances changes on the NAT.
- You can download it here.
- **Updated June 19, 2024 - Edition 4!**

CLEARANCE OR NO CLEARANCE

A GAME FOR TWO TRANSATLANTIC PILOTS!

EDITION 3! (REPLACES)

PLAY THIS IF YOU WANT TO KNOW YOUR NAT TRACK CLEARANCE!

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 OAC's on the NAT will stop transmitting an Oceanic Clearance to you. They will want you to send an 'RCL' message, which used to mean 'Required Clearance', but now it just means 'Tell us your latest preferences'. Think of it as Checking In.

OK, LET'S PLAY!

- 1 **SAME AS BEFORE**
For your crossing, do everything that you normally do. Send the RCL at the normal time, with your DEP. Time, Speed (Call Machs, Level, and Max FL, and 2nd track/Alt pref if you like).
This means send the RCL between 30 and 40 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.
- 3 **CLEARANCE**
Set Speed: As per clearance
Set Speed: As per RCL, E22NA
Set Speed: As per RCL, E22NA
- 4 **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
What if we're using voice and not ACARS for RCL?
Instead of sending an RCL message, you can also use voice. Do this if ACARS is U/S, or if you're closer to the DEP than the RCL time guide. Same goes if you get 'RCL REJECTED' or you don't get a response to the RCL message at all. There is no specific phraseology, so 'TALKING' 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. Shanwick and Gander are the same as before. Santa Maria want your RCL 40 minutes or more from the DEP, instead of 20-30 or less before DEP. Shab 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 Shanwick 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' time on the chart. See the note on 'Tango Routes' if departing Ireland.

IRELAND
Ireland - Proximity Reports
These are reports close to the Oceanic boundary, like Shanwick (ENR). Previously Oceanic Clearance was given on the ground. Since August 2023, you get your clearance airborne. After Shanwick changes to 'No Clearance Required' since New 2024, you just need to send an RCL at least 30 mins before DEP. One exception: Departing Cork (EICK) via LAGND - you need an acknowledged RCL on the ground in EICK.

OLD V NEW
What if one 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. The one 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 Gander is 'No Clearance Required' but Shanwick isn't. You just send your RCL to Gander when at the DEP, anything will take care of coordinating with Shanwick.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION NOT COVERED HERE? SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AND WE'LL HELP YOU OUT!
Add this to the end of the message. #ATC #OPSGROUP

Click for 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 4**
- **Gander:** ~~March May 3~~ **December 4**
- **Bodø:** ~~March May 6 June 17~~ **December 4**
- **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 full 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.