

National Archives and Records Administration
REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION AUTHORITY

Records Schedule Number: DAA-0237-2024-0002

Status: APPROVED
Date Approved: 09/16/2024

General Information

Agency or Establishment	Federal Aviation Administration
Record/Scheduling Group	0237 - Records of the Federal Aviation Administration
Records Schedule Applies To	Agency-wide
Schedule Subject	Tower Data Link Services Enterprise (TDLS)
Additional Schedule Information	TDLS Enterprise is a component of the National Airspace System (NAS) and was acquired by the FAA from Aeronautical Radio Incorporated (ARINC) in 2002.

The TDLS Enterprise mission is to provide information to flight deck crews using aeronautical data link from the Airport Traffic Control Towers (ATCT). TDLS supports three applications/services:

- Flight Data Input and Output (FDIO) Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)/Replacement Alphanumeric Keyboard (RANK) emulation
- Departure Clearance (DCL)
- Digital Automatic Terminal Information Service (D-ATIS)

The TDLS FDIO CRT/RANK emulation distributes flight plan data, weather information, and general information messages from the En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) computers to TDLS at remote ATCT sites. The FDIO system also relays messages from TDLS RANKs at ATCTs to ERAM at the ARTCC. This application allows the removal of the legacy RANK and CRT equipment to aid in reducing the amount of equipment in the tower cab.

The DCL Application automates many of the clearance delivery operations in the ATCT Cab and assists the ATCT TDLS operator in preparing and transmitting Pre-Departure Clearance (PDC) and Controller-Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) Future Air Navigation System (FANS) clearances. These features significantly reduce the time required to deliver a clearance to an aircrew, eliminates the possibility of transcription errors, alleviates radio frequency congestion, and reduces workload for the clearance delivery position in the tower cab. The ATCT TDLS provides clearances via two methods:

1. The DCL application relays PDCs, via the TIMS subsystem and The National Airspace System (NAS) Enterprise Security Gateway (NESG), to the subscriber airline/user computers using a data link communication system.

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2. The DCL application relays CPDLC clearances to TIMS which transmits the clearances to the Data Communications Network Service (DCNS) via a Protocol Gateway (PGW). TIMS also makes real-time DCL subscriber data available to each TDLS site and, when enabled, DCL transmits copies of acknowledged clearances to the SWIM Tower Data Distribution Systems (STDDS) located at Terminal Radar Approach and Control (TRACON) facilities.

The TDLS subsystem sends flight data to the Terminal Flight Data Manager (TFDM) for redundant presentation to Air Traffic Controllers.

The TDLS D-ATIS Application provides Automatic Terminal Information Services (ATIS) text messages via data link to subscriber aircraft, airlines, and other users, upon request. Further, it provides computer-synthesized ATIS voice messages (AVM) via existing ATIS very-high-frequency (VHF) transmitters to all users (they need not be subscribers) capable of receiving the broadcast. Weather inputs from the National Weather Service (NWS) provides data included in the D-ATIS text and voice messages.

Is There a Classified Version of This Schedule?

No

Is consultation and coordination with Tribal Governments required?

No - the records covered by this schedule do not implicate Tribal interests

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Item Count

Total number of disposition items: 1

Number of Temporary disposition items: 1

Number of Permanent disposition items: 0

Number of Items with Disposition Not Approved: 0

Number of Inactive disposition items: 0

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Outline of Records Schedule Items for DAA-0237-2024-0002

Item #	Title	Disposition
0001	Flight Plan Data	Temporary

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Records Schedule Items

DAA-0237-2024-0002-0001		STATUS: Active
ITEM GENERAL INFORMATION		
Item Title	Flight Plan Data	
Item Description	Flight plan data for departing flights. Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS) for weather and other airport conditions. Subscriber information for recipients of PDC, CPDLC, and ATIS messages. System user information. Maintenance information including monitoring data and system time.	
Is this item media neutral?	No	
Media limitation	Digital only	
Is this item a Big Bucket?	No	
SUPERSEDED AGENCY DISPOSITION AUTHORITIES AND GRS DEVIATIONS		
Does this item supersede existing disposition authorities?	No	
Is this item a deviation from the GRS?	No	
DISPOSITION INSTRUCTION		
Final Disposition	Temporary	
Cutoff Instructions	Cut off at end of Calendar year.	
Retention Period	Destroy 3 year(s) after cutoff	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
Are any of the records covered by this item national security classified?	No	
GAO Approval Required	No	

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Signatory Information

Action	User	Date
Approve	Colleen Shogan	09/16/2024