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**Next Generation Air/Ground Communications  
(NEXCOM) VDL Mode 3 Interoperability**

RTCA/DO-285  
April 10, 2003

Prepared by SC-198  
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## FOREWORD

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This document will identify Next Generations Air/Ground Communications (NEXCOM) Very High Frequency (VHF) Digital Link (VDL) Mode 3 interoperability requirements for air traffic services supported by digital voice and data communications in the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS). It is prepared in accordance with the guidance as described in applicable portions of RTCA DO-264, *Guidelines for Approval of the Provision and Use of Air Traffic Services supported by Data Communications*. The document applies material being developed by RTCA SC-189 in Initial Continental Safety and Performance Requirements.

This interoperability document presents technical and functional requirements that provide the basis for ensuring compatibility among the various elements of the Communications Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) system using digital voice and data services. These digital voice and data services are outlined in RTCA DO-279, *NEXCOM Principles of Operation VDL Mode 3 Operational Services and Environmental Definition (OSED) Section 3.7.6*, and described in RTCA DO-284, *NEXCOM System Safety and Performance Requirements (SPR)*.

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide the interoperability requirements for Air Traffic Services (ATS) supported by NEXCOM VDL Mode 3.

Interoperability requirements are the minimum technical and functional requirements that provide the basis for ensuring compatibility among the various elements of the CNS/ATM system using a specific technology.

These CNS/ATM elements comprise the aircraft system, the ATS Provider system, and the operator's provisions to use the air traffic services. The ATS provider system and the operator's provisions may include third party or contracted communication services.

This document is compliant with the Aeronautical Telecommunications Network (ATN) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), henceforth referred to as the ATN SARPs, as defined in published versions of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) *Manual of Technical Provisions for the ATN* (ICAO Doc.9705-AN/956) and the *ICAO Manual Of ATS Datalink Applications* (ICAO Doc.9694-AN/955).

This document:

1. Defines interoperability requirements for the communication services indicated in Table 1-1.
2. Defines interoperability requirements of the VDL Mode 3 subnetwork for the ATS applications; and
3. Allocates the interoperability requirements to communications elements of the CNS/ATM system.