

STANDARDS-RELATED DOCUMENT

ATP-3.3.4.2.4

TANKER/RECEIVER CLEARANCE – TECHNICAL COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

Edition A Version 1

JULY 2019



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

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NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION

18 July 2019

1. The enclosed Standards Related Document ATP-3.3.4.2.4, Edition A, Version 1, TANKER/RECEIVER CLEARANCE – TECHNICAL COMPATIBILITY MATRIX, which has been approved in conjunction with ATP-3.3.4.2 by the nations in the Military Committee Air Standardization Board (MCASB), is promulgated herewith.
2. ATP-3.3.4.2.4, Edition A, Version 1 is effective upon receipt and supersedes AAR-SRD-4, Edition B, Version 1 which shall be destroyed in accordance with the local procedure for the destruction of documents.
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CHAPTER 1 MATRIX

1.1. AIM

1. This matrix is designed to be used as a quick reference guide to confirm if a Clearance and/or technical compatibility authorisation exists for a specified (nation A) tanker and (nation B) receiver combination, in order to conduct Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR).

The technical compatibility does not automatically give the authorisation required to conduct AAR which may involve bi-lateral financial and legal agreements in addition to the technical compatibility authorisation.

2. The matrix is comprised of information derived from the National Standards-Related Documents (SRD) as approved and promulgated by the respective nations. Should any discrepancy or contradiction arise between the Matrix and the SRD, the definitive status of the AAR Clearance or technical compatibility authorisation should be ascertained through the National Point of Contact (as detailed in the respective National SRDs). Since the matrix may be updated independently of the corresponding National SRDs, the matrix may contain either more current or out-of-date information than the SRD.

3. A secondary aim of the Matrix is to act as a repository of technical data or POCs for this data so that other user nations may access or request to access data required to advance their own AAR Clearances or technical compatibility assessments.

4. Furthermore, the Matrix will also highlight areas where AAR Clearances and technical compatibility authorisations do not exist and, in doing so, will encourage nations and organizations to address the shortfalls.

5. The matrix hosted on the official site referenced in paragraph 1.5 is the official source. If copies of the data are made, they are for reference only and should be verified against the current matrix for accuracy.

1.2. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Matrix is to inform AAR Planning Staffs (whether in an Air Operations Centre, airborne C2 or tanker platform) without the need to manually extract clearance and technical information from several national documents.

2. A key Lesson Identified during recent NATO Air operations was the (lack in) timeliness and availability of AAR Clearance and technical compatibility information. The Matrix aims to assist in the rapid and dynamic planning of AAR missions.

1.3. MATRIX STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

1. Users will be presented with a (homepage) spread sheet comparing tanker and receiver platforms from the respective nations. Hyperlinks attached to each line will connect to the most up-to-date National SRDs posted to the JAPCC website for that pairing.
2. The homepage display will indicate where a clearance and/or technical compatibility authorisation currently exists using the following graphic representation:

Compatibility Assessed	Compatibility Limited	Compatibility Conflict	Compatibility Not Assessed	Compatibility Not Possible
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The cells will also indicate the means by which the receiver may be refuelled by the corresponding tanker via the following notations:

Means of Refuelling Authorised	Type of Clearance
B =Boom	1 = CAT 1 Clearance
P =Wing Pod Drogue	2 = CAT 2 Clearance
CL =Centre Line Drogue	3 = CAT 3 Clearance
BDA =Boom Drogue Adapter	? = Clearance Conflict
	X = No Clearance Listed
	Y = Clearance Exists But Is Not Yet Categorized

Additional information for specific tankers-receiver combinations including but not limited to the below can be accessed via the respective National SRD hyperlink in the Matix:

- National POC for the Receiver nation.
- National SRD for the Receiver nation.
- National POC for the Tanker nation.
- National SRD for the Tanker nation.
- Source Documents (populated at the users' discretion however suggested to include technical data sheets, trial reports and formal certification/approval/clearance letters).
- Limitations. (Referring to major limitations to AAR including Day only, VFR only, Dry Contact only and Fuel Type limitations). The user must refer to the national SRDs for more details on minor limitations and operating envelopes.
- Conflicts. (Referring to when one nation's SRD contradicts another nation's).

1.4. PROCEDURE TO UPDATE THE MATRIX

The Matrix will be updated upon receipt of an updated National SRD. Nations may also update the Matrix by providing a Clearance Authorisation, Clearance Approval Letter or Technical Compatibility Authorisation from their nation's clearance approval authority. Please email any SRD updates (see paragraph 1.6 for contact details).

1.5. LINK TO THE MATRIX

The AAR Clearance - Technical Compatibility Matrix can be found on the JAPCC website at: www.japcc.org/aar.

1.6. CONTACT DETAILS FOR UPDATING THE MATRIX

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