

Slot Coordination for General Aviation

As a result of the continuous rise in demand for airport slots for general aviation at coordinated airports and the assumption that there will be a further increase in this traffic segment, an internationally valid format, known as the GCR (General aviation Clearance Request), to apply for slots has been developed. This format will now be described in detail and replaces the practice of applying for slots by telephone or fax. (Further information can be gathered from "Procedures, Rules and Deadlines", please see AIP GEN 1.2-8 Nr. I.6. Airport Coordination)

1. GCR Standard format

The GCR standard request consists of 3 main components.

GCR }
/FLT } 1. Message Header
EDDF }
NABC123 08JUN 010G159 LSZH0900 D }
N ABC456 09JUN 010G159 1200LSZH D } 2. Flight details line(s)
SI IF NOT AVBL PLS CFM NEXT LATER POSS }
GI BRGDS } 3. Footnotes

1.1. Header

GCR Type of request: GCR - General aviation Clearance Request

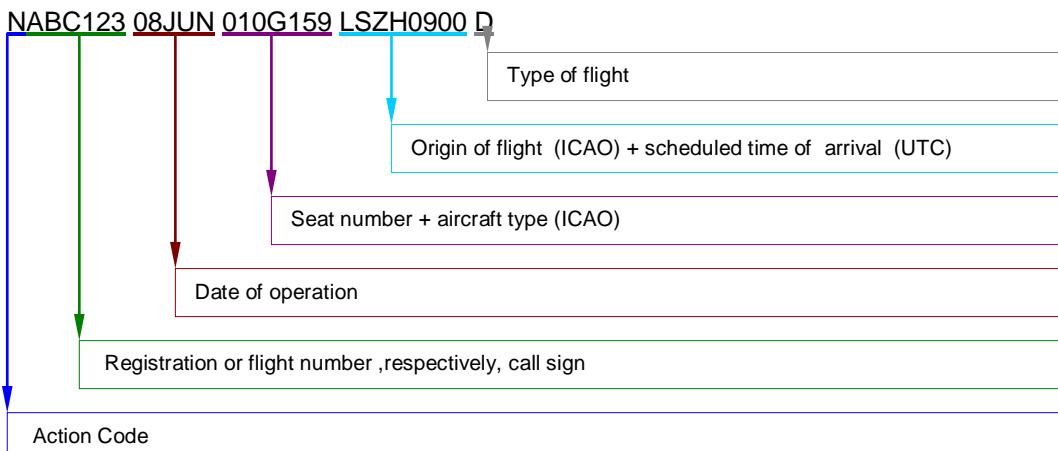
/FLT Message type for operation using flight designator plus flight number or the aircraft registration
FLT = Slot request using flight number or call sign
REG = Slot request using aircraft registration.

EDDF Airport at which slots are being requested: ICAO code

1.2. Flight details lines

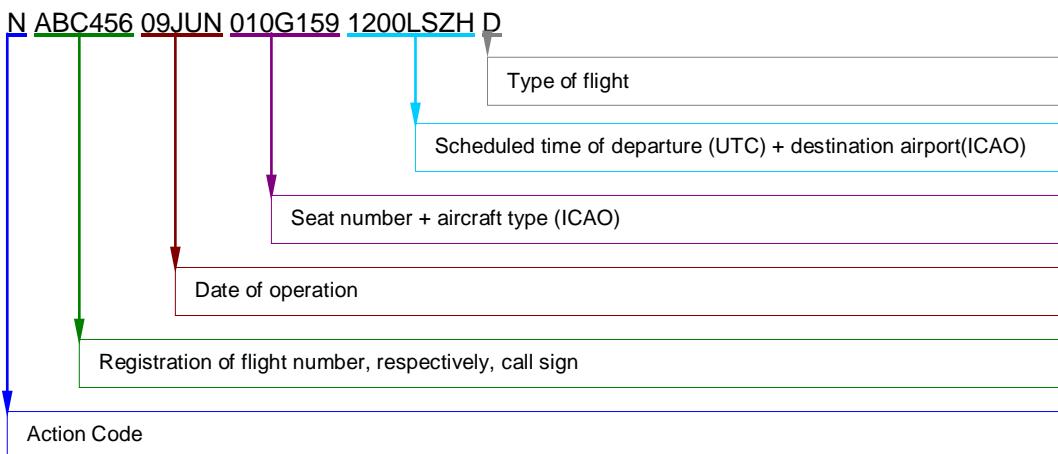
The flight detail lines contain all of the necessary schedule information needed to request an airport slot. The following examples show the different format required to request either an arrival or departure slot.

1.2.1. Arrival Slot Format



- ⚡ For an arrival slot, the registration or flight number comes directly, that is to say without a space, after the action code. The scheduled time of arrival (STA) comes directly, that is to say, without a space, after the airport of origin.

1.2.2. Departure Slot Format



- ⚡ For a departure slot, a space MUST come between the action code and the registration, respectively, the flight number. The scheduled time of departure(STD) comes directly, that is to say, without a space before the destination airport.

Action Code

The action code defines the exact intention of the GCR sender and is always at the beginning of the line. According to the sender, following codes are possible in the GCR format:

GCR Action Codes	
Owner / Operator	Coordinator
N New schedule D Delete schedule C Schedule to be changed R Revised schedule	K Confirmation X Cancellation H Holding U Refusal W Wrong

Registration /Flight number

Both registration and flight number are possible.(Reference is made in the corresponding message header).A flight number combines a maximum of 7 letters and digits (2-3 letters followed by 1-4 digits with an optional letter as a suffix).

Date of Operation

The date of operation refers to the scheduled UTC departure and arrival times at the airport to be coordinated.

Aircraft Type

Information referring to the type of aircraft being used consists of:

- = Number of seats (3 digits)
- = Aircraft type in ICAO format (4 letters)

Number of seats and aircraft type are entered without a space in between.

Routing and Time of Flight

- = Routing information consists of the origin or destination airport in regard to the airport being coordinated.
- = The requested arrival or departure time at the airport being coordinated, is stated in UTC.

Routing information and the requested timing are not separated by a space.

Type of Flight

The following service type codes can be used to define the flight:

- = “D” for General Aviation
- = “I” for State/ Diplomatic
- = “N” for Business Aviation/ Air taxi

1.3. Footnote

SI = Special Information (eg. IF NOT AVBL PLS CFM NEXT LATER POSS)
GI = General Information (eg. BRGDS)

2. GCR Examples

2.1. Airport Slot Request

Example 1N : Slot request for a departure flight using a registration (Action code "N")

Airport being coordinated : EDDF
Type of Aircraft : Gulfstream G-159 Registration HBIEV
Flight details : Departure: EDDF 0750utc / 08JUN
Arrival: LOWW 0900utc / 08JUN

GCR
/REG
EDDF
N HBIEV 08JUN 010G159 0750LOWW D
GI BRGDS

Example 2N : Slot request for an arrival using a flight number or a call sign (Action code "N")

Airport being coordinated: EDDF
Type of Aircraft : Gulfstream G-159 Flight number: ABC123
Flight detail: Departure: LSZH 0750utc / 08JUN
Arrival: EDDF 0900utc / 08JUN

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
NABC123 08JUN 010G159 LSZH0900 D
GI BRGDS

Example 3N : Slot request for an arrival and departure with differing flight numbers or call signs. (Action code "N")

Airport being coordinated: EDDF
Type of aircraft: Gulfstream G-159
Flight details: Flight number: ABC123
Departure: LSZH 0750utc / 08JUN
Arrival: EDDF 0900utc / 08JUN

Flight number: ABC456
Departure: EDDF 1200utc / 09JUN
Arrival: LSZH 1310utc / 09JUN

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
NABC123 08JUN 010G159 LSZH0900 D
N ABC456 09JUN 010G159 1200LSZH D
GI BRGDS

Example 4N : Slot request for a domestic flight to 2 coordinated airports using a flight number or call sign.
If the departure and the arrival airports are both coordinated, they can be requested together within the same GCR. (Action code "N")

Airports being coordinated : EDDF + EDDL

Type of aircraft: Gulfstream G-159 Flight number: ABC123

Flight details: Departure: EDDF 0810utc / 08JUN
Arrival: EDDL 0900utc / 08JUN

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
N ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D
EDDL
NABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D
GI BRGDS

2.1.1. Possible replies from the Coordinator

The coordinator's replies are also in the GCR standard format as described above.
The only difference is in the use of the "action code". The „Airport Slot ID“ needed in order to file a flight plan, shall be inserted in Item 18 in accordance with the format /ID followed by 14 digits containing the 4-letter ICAO code of the coordinated airport, a six-digit date group (TTMMJJ) as well as a four-digit consecutive number.

Example 1NA : The requested airport slots in example 4N have been allocated (Actioncode „K“)

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
K ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
EDDL
KABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D / ID.EDDL3010070001
GI BRGDS

Example 2NA: The requested airport slots in example 4N are not available.
(Action code "U")
The nearest available slots have been allocated.

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
U ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D
K ABC123 08JUN 010G159 **0500**EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
EDDL
UABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D
KABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF**0550** D / ID.EDDL3010070001
GI BRGDS

Example 3NA: The requested airport slots in example 4N are not available and there are no alternatives. Even if slots were available at one of the domestic airports, slots will not be allocated for either of the domestic airports.(Action code “U”)

```
GCR  
/FLT  
EDDF  
U ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D  
EDDL  
UABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D  
SI NO ARR SLOT EDDL AVLBL  
GI BRGDS .....
```

2.2. Cancellation of cleared slots

If a cleared slot is to be cancelled , it is important to make sure that the flight details and slot ID are identical with the originally cleared airport slot. If this is not the case, the cancellation request can not be processed.

Example 1D: Slots allocated in example 2NA are to be cancelled. (Action code “D”)

```
GCR  
/FLT  
EDDF  
D ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0500EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001  
EDDL  
DABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0550 D / ID.EDDL3010070001  
GI BRGDS .....
```

2.2.1. Possible replies from the Coordinator

Example 1DA: The cancellation of slots in example 1D is confirmed. (Action code “X”)

```
GCR  
/FLT  
EDDF  
X ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0500EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001  
EDDL  
XABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0550 D / ID.EDDL3010070001  
GI BRGDS .....
```

Example 2DA: The slots to be cancelled cannot be found in the coordinator’s database under the flight number/registration The cancellation request can not be processed. (Action code “W”)

```
GCR  
/FLT  
EDDF  
W ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0500EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001  
EDDL  
WABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0550 D / ID.EDDL3010070001  
GI BRGDS .....
```

Example 3DA: The coordinator is unable to match the flight details of the cancellation message with information held in the coordination database. The cancellation request can not be processed. (Action code "W") The coordinator states the flight details held in the coordination database under the flight number or call sign. (Action code "H")

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
W ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D
H ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0500EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
EDDL
WABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D
HABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0550 D / ID.EDDL3010070001
GI BRGDS

2.3. Changing a cleared slot

Flight details can be changed by using a combination of the action codes "C" and "R".

The C line defines the existing slot clearance originally allocated by the coordinator and the "R" line defines the new slots details requiring slot clearance.

It is important to make sure that the flight details and slot ID in the C line are identical with the originally allocated and confirmed airport slot.

Example.1C: Time change

Type of Aircraft:Gulfstream G-159 Registration: HBIEV

Flight details:
Departure: EDDF **1200**utc iso 0750utc / 08JUN
Arrival: LOWW 1310utc iso 0900utc / 08JUN
GCR
/REG
EDDF
C HBIEV 08JUN 010G159 0750LOWW D / ID.3010070001
R HBIEV 08JUN 010G159 **1200**LOWW D
GI BRGDS

Example.2C: Change in date/ time /arrival airport

Type of Aircraft:Gulfstream G-159 Registration HBIEV

Flight details:
Departure: EDDF **0600**utc iso 0750utc / **09JUN** iso 08JUN
Arrival: **LSZH** 1310utc iso 0900utc / 09JUN iso 08JUN

GCR
/REG
EDDF
C HBIEV 08JUN 010G159 0750LOWW D / ID.EDDF3010070001
R HBIEV **09JUN** 010G159 **1200LSZH** D
GI BRGDS

Example 3C: Slot changes for a domestic flight between 2 coordinated airports.

Type of Aircraft:Gulfstream G-159 Flight number: ABC123

Flight details:

Departure: EDDF **0600**utc iso 0810utc / 08JUN
Arrival: EDDL **0650**utc iso 0900utc / 08JUN

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
C ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
R ABC123 08JUN 010G159 **0600**EDDL D
EDDL
CABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D / ID.EDDL3010070001
RABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF**0650** D
GI BRGDS

2.3.1. Possible replies from the Coordinator

Example 1CA: The time change in example 3C is confirmed. (Action code "K")
The original slots are cancelled simultaneously. (Action code "X")

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
X ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
K ABC123 08JUN 010G159 **0600**EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
EDDL
XABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D / ID.EDDL3010070001
KABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF**0650** D / ID.EDDL3010070001
GI BRGDS

Example 2CA: The slots requested in example 3C are not available. (Action code "U")
The nearest available alternative slots are allocated (Action code "K") and the original slots
are simultaneously cancelled. (Action code "X")

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
X ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
U ABC123 08JUN 010G159 **0600**EDDL D
K ABC123 08JUN 010G159 **0610**EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
EDDL
XABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D / ID.EDDL3010070001
UABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF**0650** D
KABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF**0700** D / ID.EDDL3010070001
GI BRGDS

Example 3CA: The slots requested in example 3C are not available. (Action code "U")
Closer alternatives are not available.
The original slots are retained. (Action code "H")

GCR
/FLT
EDDF
H ABC123 08JUN 010G159 0810EDDL D / ID.EDDF3010070001
U ABC123 08JUN 010G159 **0600**EDDL D
EDDL
HABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF0900 D / ID.EDDL3010070001
UABC123 08JUN 010G159 EDDF**0650** D
GI BRGDS
