Nationality and registration marks
010 Air Law and ATC Procedures › 03 Nationality and registration marks

QUESTION

What comes first in an aircraft's marks?

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ANSWER

The nationality mark, or the common mark. The registration mark follows it.

Annex 7 3.1, 3.2

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QUESTION

When is a hyphen needed between the two parts of the marks?

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ANSWER

Only when the registration mark starts with a letter, as in CS-ABC.

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QUESTION

What is the minimum character height on the wings of a heavier-than-air aircraft?

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ANSWER

50 cm.

Annex 7 5.2.1; Annex 7 5.2.1, 5.2.2

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QUESTION

What is the minimum character height on the fuselage and vertical tail?

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ANSWER

30 cm, on the fuselage (or equivalent structure) and on the vertical tail surfaces.

Annex 7 5.2.2; Annex 7 5.2.1, 5.2.2

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QUESTION

What is the minimum character height of lighter-than-air aircraft marks?

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ANSWER

50 cm, except for unmanned free balloons.

Annex 7 5.1.1; Annex 7 4.2, 5.1.1, 5.1.2

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QUESTION

How many times does a wing mark appear?

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ANSWER

Once, on the lower surface of the wing structure.

Annex 7 4.3.1

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QUESTION

Which way do the tops of wing mark characters point?

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ANSWER

Toward the leading edge.

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QUESTION

Where do the marks go on a single fin?

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ANSWER

On both sides of the fin, on the upper half of the vertical tail surface.

Annex 7 4.3.2

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QUESTION

Where do the marks go on several fins?

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ANSWER

On the outboard sides of the outer fins.

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QUESTION

How wide is each character, except the letter I and the number 1?

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ANSWER

Two-thirds of the character height (h).

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QUESTION

How long is a hyphen?

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ANSWER

Two-thirds of the character height (h), the same as the character width.

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QUESTION

What is the line thickness of a character?

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ANSWER

One-sixth of the character height (h).

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QUESTION

What is the minimum gap between two neighbouring characters?

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ANSWER

One-quarter of a character width. The hyphen counts as a character.

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QUESTION

Which two characters are exceptions to the width rule?

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ANSWER

The letter I and the number 1.

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QUESTION

Which five-letter groups must a registration mark avoid looking like?

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ANSWER

The five-letter groups of the International Code of Signals.

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QUESTION

Which three-letter groups must a registration mark avoid looking like?

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ANSWER

The three-letter groups that begin with Q, the Q-code groups.

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QUESTION

Name one example of an urgent signal that a registration must not resemble.

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ANSWER

XXX, PAN or TTT. The distress signal SOS is also avoided.

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QUESTION

How many States can validly register an aircraft at one time?

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ANSWER

One. The registration can still be transferred to another State.

Chicago Art. 18; Chicago Arts 17, 18, 19

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QUESTION

What must the identification plate show, at a minimum?

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ANSWER

The nationality or common mark and the registration mark.

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QUESTION

What material must the identification plate be made of?

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ANSWER

Fireproof metal or another fireproof material.

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QUESTION

Where is the identification plate secured?

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ANSWER

In a prominent position near the main entrance.

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QUESTION

Who assigns a common mark?

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ANSWER

ICAO, to a common mark registering authority.

Annex 7 Ch. 1 and Note

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QUESTION

What does a common mark registering authority register?

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ANSWER

The aircraft of one international operating agency, on a non-national basis.

Annex 7 Ch. 1 and Note

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QUESTION

Which radio call-sign symbols does a common mark come from?

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ANSWER

The ITU symbols allocated to ICAO, not to a State.

Annex 7 3.4 and Note 1; 3.1, 3.2

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QUESTION

Which mark does a common mark replace in the group?

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ANSWER

The nationality mark.

Annex 7 3.4 and Note 1; 3.1, 3.2

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QUESTION

Which certificate model applies from 26 November 2026?

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ANSWER

The Annex 7 model, which names a certificate holder and the basis of registration.

Annex 7 Figure 1; Annex 7 8.1, Figure 1 (applicable as of 26 Nov 2026)

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QUESTION

Until 25 November 2026, whom does the certificate of registration name?

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ANSWER

The owner, with the owner's name and address.

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QUESTION

What must a certificate of registration in another language include?

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ANSWER

An English translation.

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QUESTION

What does a certificate of deregistration follow?

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ANSWER

The Annex 7 model. It records the removal and cancels the certificate of registration.

Annex 7 7.2, 9.1, 9.2, Figure 2

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QUESTION

What is a heavier-than-air aircraft?

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ANSWER

An aircraft that gets its lift in flight chiefly from aerodynamic forces.

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QUESTION

Trap: do wing marks go on the upper surface of the wing?

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ANSWER

No. They go on the lower surface, on the left half, unless they span the whole lower surface.

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QUESTION

Trap: is 50 cm the minimum height for fuselage marks?

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ANSWER

No. The minimum on the fuselage and vertical tail is 30 cm. 50 cm is the wing minimum.

Annex 7 5.2.1, 5.2.2

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