AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 22/17

NOTAM TIME PERIODS SPANNING MIDNIGHT

In 2011, changes to the format of NOTAM time periods were introduced to further comply with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and to harmonize the format with those of other ICAO member states. Discontinuing the use of the ten-digit date-time group to describe a time schedule allowed more foreign systems to extract NOTAMs automatically for pre-flight briefings, while at the same time reducing the workload of dispatchers.

Since 2011, minor changes have been introduced to clarify time periods; however, periods spanning midnight are still generally misinterpreted. It is crucial for users and NOTAM Originators to read or compose these schedules correctly, since a misinterpretation could result in an aeronautical incident or accident.

To reduce the risk of misinterpreting time periods in a NOTAM, refer to the examples and illustrations provided below to visualize and understand time periods spanning midnight Universal Time Coordinated (UTC).

General

In a NOTAM, all times, dates, and days of the week are expressed in UTC. For example, for the city of Ottawa (UTC -5(4)):

Wednesday 8 February at 22:00 (10:00 p.m.) local time (EST)	translates to	Thursday 9 February at 0300Z UTC

NOTAM Schedule in Relation to the NOTAM Validity

A schedule is inserted only when the information contained in a NOTAM occurs during more than one period within the overall "in force" period. The start of the first time period corresponds to the Start date-time group and the end of the last period corresponds to End date-time group, unless days of the week are used and the NOTAM is in force for more than a week.
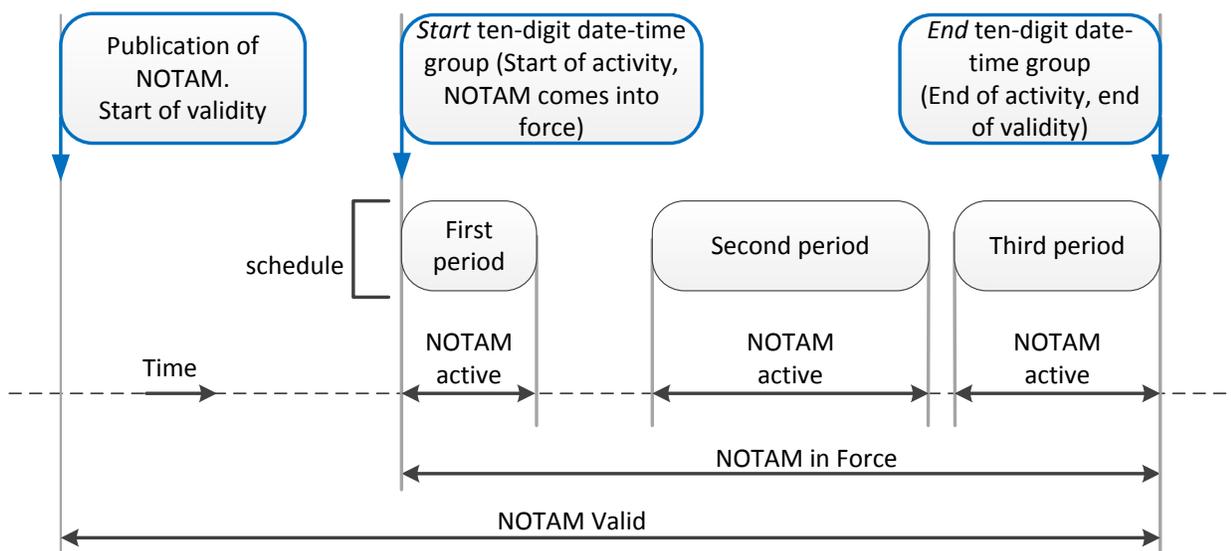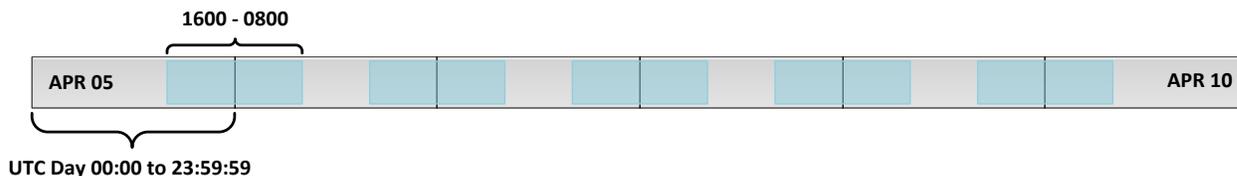

Figure 1: NOTAM schedule in relation to the NOTAM validity

Daily Activity

When the activity is a succession of identical periods of less than 24 hours on consecutive days, the term "DLY" (daily) is used and the NOTAM period is presented as follows:
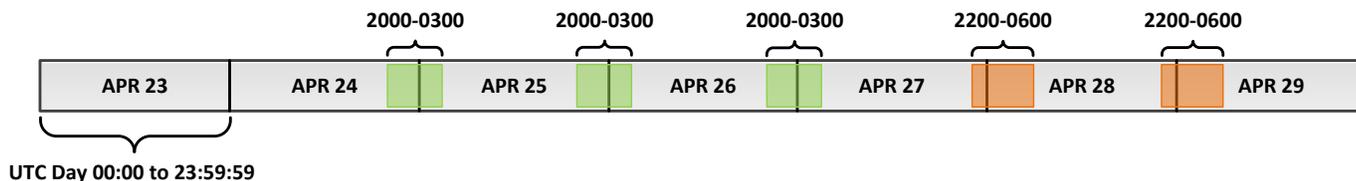
```
1600-0800 DLY
1704051600 TIL 1704100800
```

Periods Expressed with Dates

When using this format, note that the dates correspond to the start of the periods and the last date in the NOTAM schedule (28 April) does not correspond to the date of the second ten-digit date-time group (29 April).

```
APR 24-26 2000-0300
APR 27 28 2200-0600
1704242000 TIL 1704290600
```
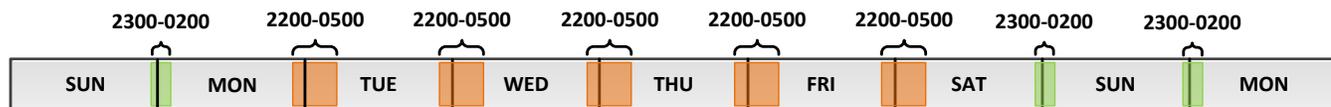
As with all schedules, the first date and time of the schedule (APR 24 at 2000Z) corresponds to the first ten-digit date-time group (1704242000) and the last time (0600Z) of the schedule corresponds to the second ten-digit date-time group (1704290600).

Periods Expressed with Days of the Week

Occasionally, periods can be expressed using days of the week. The "days of the week" syntax would be used when the activity spans multiple weeks and when the periods are the same for a given day. Note that because the NOTAM is valid for multiple weeks, the start and end ten-digit date-time groups can correspond to any day in the schedule, as long as the times match. In the example below, the activity starts on a Tuesday (04 April) and ends on a Saturday (29 April). **The ten-digit date-time groups must be referenced to determine the exact start and end of the NOTAM validity.** Note that only a portion of the NOTAM schedule is shown in the illustration below.

```
MON-FRI 2200-0500
SAT-SUN 2300-0200
1704042200 TIL 1704290500
```


Differences with Periods Not Spanning Midnight

When time periods do not span midnight UTC, the formats are essentially the same:

Daily Activity

```
0800-1600 DLY
1704240800 TIL 1704291600
```

Periods Expressed with Dates

```
APR 14-19 0730-1300
APR 20-22 1130-2330
APR 23-29 0900-2000
1704140730 TIL 1704292000
```

Periods Expressed Using Days of the Week

```
MON WED FRI 0500-2200
SAT 0200-2300
1704030500 TIL 1704212200
```

Further Information

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