



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

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From: Jeffrey Szczygielski, Director, Operational Policy and Implementation, AJT-2

Subject: Tower Data Link Services Software Error: Version 12.11.1 Or Earlier –
Erroneous Clearance

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform facilities of a known issue with Pre-Departure Clearance/Controller Pilot Data Link Communication (PDC/CPDLC) running version 12.11.1 or earlier and to take steps to mitigate an aircraft receiving an incorrect clearance. When edits to the transition of a Standard Instrument Departure (SID) on a PDC or CPDLC flight plan (either initial or amendment) are made using the Tower Data Link System (TDLS) keyboard with the up-arrow key, the SID transition selected may not be sent. The display will indicate that the SID transition was selected, appears to be sent, and is acknowledged by the aircraft, but the wrong transition could be sent with the clearance when using the TDLS keyboard with the up-arrow key. This error will not occur if the TDLS mouse is used to make edits to the flight plan.

Using the TDLS keyboard with the up-arrow key causes the wrong transition to be sent to the aircraft, which could result in the aircraft flying the wrong transition and potentially a loss of separation. The error occurs in the software of the TDLS system. In addition, when viewing the issued clearance in the TDLS info function, the system will show what was intended to be sent and will not show the incorrect transition the aircraft received. The SID transition error is the only known issue in the TDLS.

The following mitigations apply until a software fix is installed:

- When manually sending PDC and CPDLC clearances from TDLS the keyboard and arrow keys should not be used to make selections while editing the SID transition.
- If a SID transition is selected using the TDLS keyboard and arrow keys, facilities must verbally verify the aircraft received the correct transition.

- SID transitions selected using the TDLS mouse DO NOT require verbal verification that the aircraft received the clearance.

Currently, a fix to the known software error is being developed and tested and is expected to be available later in 2023. Once the updated software that fixes the error is installed, Air Traffic Control facilities may resume normal mode of operation and stop verbally verifying that the aircraft received the correct SID transition.

Target Audience: All Terminal Air Traffic facilities equipped with TDLS.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding Air Traffic concerns, please contact Rafael Vega, Technical Advisory Group – South Team, AJT-2220, at Rafael.A.Vega@faa.gov.

If you have further questions or need additional software support, please contact Don Fitts, Second Level Engineering at Don.Fitts@faa.gov or (405) 954-5199, or the TDLS Help Desk at AMC-ATOW-TDLS-SUPPORT@faa.gov or (405) 954-9131.

Attachment

Terminal Air Traffic Facilities Equipped with TDLS

Distribution

Michael Whitford, Director (A), Air Traffic Operations, Eastern Service Area, AJT-E
Jeff Stewart, Director, Air Traffic Operations, Central Service Area, AJT-C
Tonya Patterson, Director (A), Air Traffic Operations, Western Service Area, AJT-W

cc: AJT General Managers and Assistant General Managers

Terminal Air Traffic Facilities Equipped with TDLS

ABQ	Albuquerque, NM	LIT	Little Rock, AR
ADW	Andrews AFB, MD	MCI	Kansas City, MO
ALB	Albany, NY	MCO	Orlando, FL
ANC	Anchorage, AK	MDW	Chicago Midway, IL
ATL	Atlanta, GA	MEM	Memphis, TN
AUS	Austin, TX	MIA	Miami, FL
BDL	Windsor Locks, CT	MKE	Milwaukee, WI
BNA	Nashville, TN	MSP	Minneapolis, MN
BOI	Boise, ID	MSY	New Orleans, LA
BOS	Boston, MA	OAK	Oakland, CA
BUF	Buffalo, NY	OKC	Oklahoma City, OK
BUR	Burlington, VT	OMA	Omaha, NE
BWI	Baltimore, MD	ONT	Ontario, CA
CHS	Charleston, SC	ORD	Chicago O'Hare, IL
CLE	Cleveland, OH	PBI	West Palm Beach, FL
CLT	Charlotte, NC	PDX	Portland, OR
CMH	Columbus, OH	PHL	Philadelphia, PA
CVG	Cincinnati, OH (Covington, KY)	PHX	Phoenix, AZ
DAL	Dallas Love, TX	PIT	Pittsburgh, PA
DCA	Washington Reagan, DC	PVD	Providence, RI
DEN	Denver, CO	RDU	Raleigh-Durham, NC
DFW	Ft. Worth, TX	RNO	Reno, NV
DTW	Detroit, MI	RSW	Ft. Myers, FL
ELP	El Paso, TX	SAN	San Diego, CA
EWB	Newark, NJ	SAT	San Antonio, TX
FLL	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	SDF	Louisville, KY
GSO	Greensboro, NC	SEA	Seattle, WA
HNL	Honolulu, HI	SFO	San Francisco, CA
HOU	Houston Hobby, TX	SJC	San Jose, CA
HPN	White Plains, NY	SJU	San Juan, PR
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IND	Indianapolis, IN	SNA	Santa Ana, CA
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