

Helpful Hints When Calling SFO RADIO

1. When calling in, identify the frequency that you are transmitting on
 - a. *“San Francisco, this is N12345 on 5574”*
 - b. *“San Francisco this is CHVGT on 8843”*
2. When making your initial call on VHF, expect to receive the primary and secondary frequency for the crossing. Give your departure station and destination and SELCAL code to help the RO determine your HF assignment
 - a. *“San Francisco, this is N12345 Los Angeles to Honolulu SELCAL is ABCD, requesting primary and secondary”*
 - b. *“San Francisco, this is N12345 Honolulu to Los Angeles on R577 today requesting HF primary and secondary, SELCAL is ABEF”*
3. If looking for HF assignment the crews may:
 - a. Use the HF Frequency Webpage for current frequencies in use at www.radio.arinc.net and click on the “Pacific” tab at the top for current SFO frequencies in use
 - b. On the ground, crews may use the following VHF:
 - LAX 128.9, 131.95
 - SMF, SFO 130.4
 - Extended range VHF 131.95 LAX/SFO/Hawaii can be used for HF assignment or for initial position reports (when airborne)
4. For CPDLC equipped-aircraft, filed flight plans will be presented to the RO. If the RO is **not** presented with the flight plan, be prepared to provide your departure station, destination, aircraft registration and SELCAL. Expect HF frequency assignment for the entire crossing
5. When calling on HF or VHF and you are not answered, make at least three calls before switching to the secondary frequency. The RO may be working another frequency.
6. Transmit at a steady pace.
7. Enunciate each numeral in your call sign.
 - a. *“N1647”* versus *“November sixteen forty seven”*
 - b. *“November five-niner”* versus *“November fifty-nine”* (which sounds like sixty-nine)
8. When giving position reports, please follow standard format:
 - a. Present position, time, flight level
 - 1) If position is not named,
 - a) Latitude (2 digits or more) and,
 - b) Longitude (3 digits or more)
 - b. Estimated position and time
 - c. Ensuing waypoint (name or lat/long of next succeeding fix whether compulsory or not)
 - d. The RO will read back your position report up to the estimated position and time for confirmation

9. Prefix your call with type of call:
 - a. *“San Francisco November 12345 position on 5574”*
 - b. *“San Francisco November 12345, request”*
10. On HF, listen to the frequency before transmitting. The frequency may be congested and you may transmit over other flights
11. Beware of similar sounding words and call signs: *“LEFT”* and *“WEST”*; *“November seven romeo papa”* and *“November seven romeo papa”*
12. Beware of expectations. A flight crew expects to receive the altitude they requested. The pilot may be thinking of the altitude requested and actually hear those numbers while the RO is transmitting, even though the altitude is different
13. Beware of distractions; noise, propagation, other stations on the net
14. Use proper radio discipline (even when using SatVoice)
15. Use proper phraseology
16. Keep it brief
17. If you require a phone patch, state who you wish to speak to. The RO on your enroute HF primary/secondary frequencies will reassign you to the appropriate LDOC frequency
18. The Long Distance Operational Control Frequencies (LDOCF) are used primarily for Aircraft Operation Control (AOC) communications. These frequencies are guarded 24 hours a day and provide voice communications via HF to aircraft operating over oceanic areas beyond the coverage range of VHF facilities

The Air/Ground radio channel is *one way* (send or receive) only; break-ins and interruptions are not possible. In the normal “at rest” condition, the ground party receives the aircraft transmission. When the ground party speaks, a voice-operated relay switches the radio channel from receive to transmit and the aircraft receives the ground party audio. The ground party should maintain a firm, even level of speech and avoid shouting.

Note: Each speaking party should indicate the end of a transmission with the words “over” or “go ahead”

19. Dispatch may request a patch by calling the SFO Comm Center at:
 - a. 925-455-7424 (Primary number)
 - b. 800-621-0140
 - c. 925-294-8297, 8356, 8367, 8485, 8487, 8505
20. SFO SATVoice 436625