

14. Aircraft & Operator Colors

1. Color priority chain

Marker color priority:

1. `Aircraft Colors` by ICAO hex has highest priority,
2. if missing, `Operator Colors` is used,
3. if both missing, default marker color is used.

2. Operator color resolution

`Operator Colors` lookup order:

1. first 3 characters of callsign,
2. `operatorFlagCode` from aircraft database record.

3. Visual modifiers

1. `Color by operator` in label config must be enabled for custom tinting.
2. Emergency squawk rendering forces emergency red.
3. Selected marker style can force yellow selection (unless `preserve` mode is used).

4. Admin/API behavior

1. both mappings are upsert-style (`PUT` creates or updates existing key),
2. mappings are persisted in data directory JSON files,
3. stored mappings are sorted by key on save.

5. Quick diagnostic checklist

1. verify key format (`ICAO hex` for Aircraft Colors, operator code for Operator Colors),
2. verify `Color by operator` is enabled,
3. remember Aircraft Colors overrides Operator Colors,
4. verify emergency/selection state is not masking expected tint.

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