U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Publication of Destabilizing Altitudes on Vertically Guided Procedures

Date: APR 1 3 2005

From: Manager, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, AFS-400

Reply to Attn. of:

To: Manager, National Flight Procedures Office, AVN-100

PURPOSE. This memorandum provides policy guidance concerning publication of altitude restrictions on fixes located between the precision final approach fix (PFAF) and the runway threshold (RWT) on vertically guided approach procedures (ILS, LAAS, LNAV/VNAV, MLS, LPV, RNP, TLS).

DISCUSSION. In a joint industry/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) effort to prevent controlled flight into terrain (CFIT) accidents, policy was issued directing the establishment of vertically guided approach procedures to all 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 139 airports. The basis of this effort is the statistical evidence that aircraft flying a stabilized descent path from the final approach fix to touchdown have significantly fewer fatal accidents than aircraft flying nonprecision approach procedures. The stabilized trajectory provided by these procedures cannot be interrupted without negating the benefit provided by vertical guidance. Establishing fixes with minimum or maximum altitude restrictions between the PFAF and RWT can interrupt the stabilized aircraft trajectory where an aircraft is allowably above or below the glidepath, but must adjust rate of descent to comply with the altitude restriction.

POLICY. Do not establish altitude restrictions at fixes located between the PFAF and RWT on vertically guided approach procedures unless they are applicable to a non-vertically guided procedure published on the same approach chart (*example: ILS chart with a localizer procedure that requires publication of a stepdown fix*) and the fix altitude is annotated for use on the non-vertically guided procedure only.

If you have any questions or require additional information, you may contact Don Pate, Manager, Flight Procedure Standards Branch, AFS-420, on (405) 954-4164.

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