

AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM
Charting Group
Meeting 12-02 – October 24-25, 2012

RECOMMENDATION DOCUMENT

FAA Control # 12-02-256

Subject: Removal of Front Legend Matter from Hardcopy TPPs

Background/Discussion:

Every 56 days, the FAA publishes 25 Terminal Procedure Publication (TPP) volumes. Each TPP volume contains 16 pages of explanatory matter, legends, abbreviations, etc., an Index of Terminal Charts and Minimums, followed by the actual instrument flight procedures themselves (Alternates, Takeoffs, RADARs, Standard Terminal Approach Charts, Instrument Approach Charts, Airport Diagrams & Departure Charts). The 16 pages of identical explanatory matter, general information, legends, etc., is replicated in all of the 25 volumes.

Recommendations:

It is suggested that the explanatory front matter, including the legends, abbreviations, etc. (pages A1 through J1), be deleted from the hardcopy versions of the TPPs. Much or perhaps all of the material on these pages is pre-flight information that a user could/should familiarize himself with prior to takeoff. This information is currently available online and it is proposed that this is sufficient. To direct users to the online information, it is suggested that the text **“For Guidance/Explanatory Information on this Publication, Symbol Legends & Abbreviations, please see <http://aeronav.faa.gov/d-tpp/1210/frntmatter.pdf>.”** be added to the inside front cover of the hardcopy TPPs.

Comments:

If these pages were maintained only in electronic form, they could be updated more easily & frequently and could possibly be expanded to provide more thorough guidance to the publication and its contents. Additionally, users of the hardcopy volumes could more readily locate the Index of Procedures without the necessity of searching through the existing pages that currently precede it.

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Minutes from ACF 12-02:

Ron Canter, FAA/AJV-353, briefed the topic. Ron stated that the [first 16 pages](#) of all the 24 volumes of the TPPs published by the FAA contain the same information. These 16 pages are republished every 56 days in each of the 24 volumes. Ron showed the “front matter” to the group via a slideshow, demonstrating that it consists of a plethora of guidance, symbols, general information, etc. Ron’s proposal is that this information be removed from the hardcopy TPPs and only be available online and in the d-TPP. He points out that in addition to cost savings, the information, if only digital, could be updated more frequently and could be expanded to include more explanatory information that might be useful to pilots using the TPPs.

Ron proposed that a link to the digital version of the front matter would be added to the inside front cover of each hardcopy TPP, making it easy for a user to access the information.

Brad Rush, FAA/AJV-3B, commented that in running the numbers, 24 TPPs x 16 pages equates to 400 pages per cycle. Over the course of a year, with 500,000 sets published per year, a total of one million pages could be eliminated. Brad reiterated that the front matter is available online.

John Gale, NBAA, inquired as to the implications of having the front matter available only online. John commented that in the Business Aviation community (Part 91, 91 Subpart K and 135), it is standard procedure for a pilot/crew to have to fly to five airports within a given day. Often, the airports may be new to the pilot/crew and the plates may contain unfamiliar material or symbols that require clarification via the front matter information. He states that having the front matter readily available is invaluable during both pre- and in-flight.

Lev Prichard, APA-American Airlines, also echoed NBAA’s comment, adding that for many flight crews (Part 121), the bulk of the planning is done enroute to the destination.

Tom Schneider, FAA/AFS-420, suggested that a separate booklet be made containing the Front Matter materials. The booklet could be included with purchase of a complete set of TPPs or with the purchase of one TPP volume. The Booklet could be sold separately for anyone wanting just the front matter materials and would only need to be reissued when revised.

Chris Criswell, FAA/AJV-22, inquired as to whether the information contained in the front matter of the TPP was also in the Chart Users Guide. Valerie Watson, FAA/AJV-3B, commented that yes, the same material is in the Chart Users Guide, however, the Guide is not as cockpit friendly in terms of the size (8 ½” X 11”) and organizes the information in a different way. The Chart Users Guide is more of reference tool to for use on the ground, not in an in-flight, cockpit environment.

Pierre Laroche, Transport Canada, stated that NAVCANADA does not publish this sort of information with their TPPs and publishes a separate book. NAVCANADA only publishes new editions of this informational supplement when revised.

Jeff Waterman, NGA/PV, commented that the DoD also publishes a separate Flight Information Supplement.

The consensus from the group was that there was support in removing the 16 pages of front matter from the hardcopy TPP, provided it is available elsewhere, as in a TPP supplement, in hardcopy and that not be additional cost incurred by the customer.

STAUS: OPEN

ACTION: Ron Canter, FAA/AJV-353, will take the input and recommendation to generate a separate TPP Front Legend Matter Book/Supplement and, with the help of the AeroNav Business Development Group, see if this is feasible. Ron will provide an update at the next ACF.

MEETING 13-01: Valerie Watson, AJV-3B, reviewed the history of submission. Since the last ACF, AeroNav Products reviewed the previous ACF suggestion of producing a separate TPP publication containing guidance & legend matter. The AeroNav Products Business Office has determined that this course is not cost effective. The TPP guidance & legend matter will remain as it is currently published.

STATUS: CLOSED