

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7210.817

**Effective Date:**  
July 13, 2012

**Cancellation Date:**  
March 7, 2013

**SUBJ:** AvMet Volcanic Ash

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice adds the detection of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the aircraft cabin to the list of significant weather phenomena that are to be handled and disseminated as URGENT pilot reports (PIREP).
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to FAA air traffic control facilities and flight service stations.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee Web site at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the air traffic publications Web site at [http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/).
- 4. Procedures.** Amend FAA Order JO 7210.3, paragraph 6-3-1, to read as follows:

**6-3-1. HANDLING OF SIGMETs, CWAs, AND PIREPs**

Title through b2, no change.

**c. PIREP classification:** Categorize PIREPs as follows:

1. URGENT: Weather phenomena reported by a pilot which represents a hazard or a potential hazard to flight operations. Disseminate reports of the following conditions as URGENT PIREPs.

Subparagraphs c1(a) through c1(f), no change.

- (g) Detection of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), associated with volcanic activity, in the cabin.

**NOTE-**

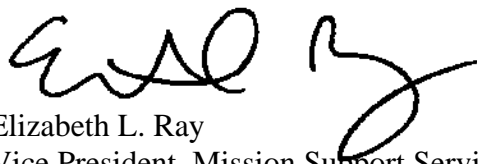
*Sulphur dioxide has the odor of a rotten egg.*

Subparagraph c1(g), re-letter to c1(h).

No further changes to paragraph.

- 5. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Terminal, En Route and Oceanic, System Operations, and Mission Support; Office of ATO Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.
- 6. Background.** The FAA is responsible for providing meteorological data to stakeholders of the National Airspace System. This includes disseminating and distributing observations, forecasts, and warning messages that pertain to volcanic activity including volcanic ash. PIREPs for volcanic activity and volcanic ash are provided to air traffic control in a specified format which is delineated in the Aeronautical Information Manual. These reports are then forwarded to the Volcanic Ash Advisory

Centers and are used to issue volcanic ash SIGMETs. These changes follow new International Civil Aviation Organization guidelines as set forth by the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group and are in effect as of November 2010.



Elizabeth L. Ray  
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Air Traffic Organization

June 11, 2012

Date Signed