

ORDER

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
GREAT LAKES REGION
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS**

GL 7110.11

20 Jan 72

SUBJ: IFR SOARING OPERATIONS

1. PURPOSE. This Order prescribes procedures for authorizing IFR soaring operations within the Great Lakes Region.
2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to branch level in Air Traffic Division, Flight Standards Division, all Air Traffic field facilities, and ACDO's, GADO's, and FSDO's.
3. POLICY. The operation of gliders under instrument flight rules or in positive control area requires special handling by Air Traffic Control, and may require deviation from certain regulations. Authorization of such operations should be predicated on the policy that normal operations should not be unduly penalized to accommodate special operations. Therefore, requests to operate gliders IFR or in positive control area should be handled in the same manner as other requests for clearances and approved or disapproved as traffic conditions dictate.
4. PROCEDURES.
 - a. Coordination. Individuals or groups proposing glider operations in positive control area or under instrument flight rules shall be requested to contact the concerned Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) sufficiently in advance to resolve details of the operation.
 - b. Notification requirements. The Center receiving the request for authorization shall obtain at least the following:
 - (1) The particular rules with which the flight cannot comply.
 - (2) A description of the airspace within which the flight desires to operate.
 - (3) Air/ground communication and beacon capabilities.
 - (4) The method by which the Center will be notified of the time of launch and landing in the event that air/ground communications are not available.
 - (5) The flight plan.
 - (6) Special procedures.

Distribution: RGLAT-3; RGLFS-2
FAT-0, FFS-1/2/7 (Normal)

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- c. Waivers. Appropriate FAA offices may issue waivers of FAR Part 91 in accordance with Handbook OA P 7711.1A and the following guidelines:

- (1) Towing gliders. The Flight Standards Service advises that in some cases outstanding waivers of FAR 91.17 issued for towing gliders may require revision if the tow aircraft will enter APC. Proposals to operate contrary to FAR 91.17 shall be coordinated with the Flight Standards District Office authorized to grant or deny such waivers.
- (2) Visibility. Waivers of FAR 91.105 to permit VFR operations in visibility below basic VFR minimums or closer than one mile horizontally from clouds will not be granted.
- (3) Communications. Requests for waiver of FAR 91.125 to permit IFR soaring operations in controlled airspace without radio communications shall be referred to the Regional Office for processing in accordance with OA P 7711.1A, paragraph 5.

- d. Operation in APC. Glider operations in positive control area may be authorized in accordance with the provisions of FAR 91.97.

- e. Multiple Operation.

- (1) Approval to operate IFR in a designated area shall not be granted to more than one glider at a time.
- (2) Approval to operate VFR in a designated area within positive control airspace may be granted to more than one glider operated by a single group of operators at one time, provided deviation from FAR 91.97(a)(1) is authorized and the special provisions of the authorization require all gliders operating within the designated area to comply with visual flight rules.

- f. Area of Operation. IFR flight by a glider will normally require the designation of an area of operation rather than a route since the mode of flight will normally include low speed, circling flight, drifting cross-country at about the same speed as the wind aloft and an inability to maintain a preselected altitude or ground-directed heading. The dimensions of the area and altitudes shall be determined by mutual agreement between the operator and facility. The capability of the pilot to communicate with the Center should be considered in approving the flight.

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5. CANCELLATION. Order CE AT 7110.16 dated 9/28/64 is cancelled for all Great Lakes Region.



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Director