

NOTICE

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

N JO 7210.878

Effective Date:
March 18, 2015

Cancellation Date:
June 25, 2015

SUBJ: Use of Aircraft Call Signs

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice amends FAA Order JO 7210.3Y, Paragraph 4-4-2, Use of Aircraft Call Signs.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support, and System Operations; Department of Defense facilities, and all associated air traffic control facilities.
- 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/ and on the air traffic publications Web site at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.
- 4. Explanation of Policy Change.** This change to FAA JO 7210.3Y, paragraph 4-4-2, Use of Aircraft Call Signs, updates and clarifies ATO procedures for local call sign/telephony assignments, as well as guidance for authorization and assignment of special call signs and call signs using 3-letter ICAO-approved designators. The changes in this paragraph will now align published local call sign assignment procedures with current practices in the field. Previous procedures restricting local call signs to only VFR operations have been removed. Now, with the appropriate LOA provisions, local call signs may also be used for IFR operations within the local area. For aircraft operators that have the need for IFR operations outside the local area, guidance is provided for the authorization and assignment of special call signs. A new procedure requires that all law enforcement call signs be verified through System Operations Security for de-confliction and security filtering. These revised ATO procedures for local call signs, special call signs, and 3-letter ICAO-approved designators will also be updated and published in FAA Order JO 7340.2, Contractions, and AC 120-26, ICAO Aircraft Company Three-Letter Identifier and/or Telephony Designator Assignments and U.S. Special Telephony/Call Signs.
- 5. Procedures.** Amend FAA Order JO 7210.3, Paragraph 4-4-2, Use of Aircraft Call Signs, to read as follows:

4-4-2 USE OF AIRCRAFT CALL SIGNS

a. Local call sign/telephony designators are used only for local flight operations as specified in a letter of agreement (LOA) between the local air traffic control (ATC) facility and the requesting aircraft operator. LOAs concerning the use of aircraft call signs by local flight operators must conform with the following standards:

1. Local call signs must not be assigned a three-letter designator. This ensures local call signs will not conflict with call signs using three-letter ICAO-approved designators.
2. Local call sign/telephony designators must not conflict with call signs and/or telephonies in use by military aircraft and other aircraft that operate in the local area. All law enforcement call sign/telephony designators must be verified through System Operations Security (9-ATOR-HQ-IFOS@faa.gov).

3. Local call signs are only used for communications and operations with local ATC facilities that are signatories on the LOA.

4. Local call signs are not used in filing flight plans outside the local area designated in the LOA.

NOTE-

Aircraft operators (for example, flight schools, aircraft manufacturers, law enforcement, etc.) may request a special call sign/telephony designator that would enable IFR flight operations outside the designated local area.

b. Special call sign/telephony designators are authorized and assigned by the FAA for governmental or other aircraft operations to enable special handling by ATC within the continental United States. Special designators can be used for filing flight plans and may be issued for a designated area of operation corresponding to the duration of an event or circumstances requiring special handling. Special designators are authorized by the following FAA offices:

1. System Operations Security (9-ATOR-HQ-IFOS@faa.gov) for federal, state, or local governmental aircraft operators, including law enforcement.

2. Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) (callsigns@faa.gov) for non-governmental aircraft operators, including flight schools.

REFERENCE-

FAAO JO 7110.67 Special Aircraft Operations by Federal/State Law Enforcement/Military Organizations and Special Activities

c. ICAO three-letter designators are normally used for world-wide use and assigned by ICAO (<http://www.icao.int/3LD>). Authorized ICAO three-letter designators are published in FAA Order JO 7340.2 and ICAO Document 8585.

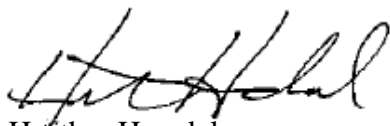
REFERENCE-

FAAO JO 7340.2 Contractions

AC 120-26 ICAO Aircraft Company Three-Letter Identifier and/or Telephony Designator Assignments and U.S. Special Telephony/Call Signs
ICAO Document 8585 Designators for Aircraft Operating Agencies, Aeronautical Authorities and Services

6. Distribution. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support, and System Operations; the Office of ATO Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and all Department of Defense ATC facilities.

7. Background. Published ATO procedures for local call sign assignment were in need of updating to standardize guidance for Service Areas, ATC facilities, and FAA HQ. An extensive coordination process was accomplished to ensure new ATO procedures are more flexible and cause the least amount of disruption to the variety of local call sign procedures already in practice by the Service Areas and ATC facilities. The paragraph was also expanded to provide ATC facilities with additional information regarding the authorization and assignment of special call signs and call signs using 3-letter ICAO-approved designators.



Heather Hemdal
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Air Traffic Organization

1-15-15

Date Signed