

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Cleveland Hopkins Airport Traffic Control Tower  
Cleveland Hopkins International Airport  
Cleveland, Ohio 44135

**ISSUED:** February 11, 2009

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

## **CLEVELAND HOPKINS AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (CLE ATCT) LETTER TO AIRMEN (LTA) NO. 09-01**

**SUBJECT:** SHARP INCREASE IN ALTITUDE DEVIATION ERRORS INVOLVING BURKE LAKEFRONT AIRPORT (BKL) DEPARTURE AIRCRAFT. SPECIFICLY NON-ADHEARANCE WITH ALTITUDE RESTRICTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH:

- 1) CLEVELAND CLASS B
- 2) BKL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER INITIAL ASSIGNED ALTITUDE

**CANCELLATION:** February 10, 2011

Since October 1, 2008, there have been six (6) pilot deviations involving aircraft departing Burke Lakefront Airport (BKL). Four (4) of the pilot deviations were caused by IFR aircraft "busting" their assigned ATC altitude of 2,000 feet. In all four cases, the pilot read back the correct altitude but failed to comply with the clearance. The remaining two pilot deviations were VFR aircraft which departed BKL and entered the Cleveland (CLE) Class Bravo airspace without a clearance.

**Warning:** Due to the close proximity of BKL and CLE, it is imperative that IFR aircraft departing BKL comply with ATC instructions to level at 2,000 feet and commence their tower assigned turn soon after takeoff. This is to ensure both vertical and lateral IFR separation from aircraft inbound on the CLE Runway 24L/R final approach course that is located directly over top of BKL. CLE arrival aircraft cross BKL at 3,000 feet and continue their descent into CLE immediately southwest of BKL.

The Air Traffic Control (ATC) standard altitude clearance off of BKL is to climb and maintain 2,000 feet and a heading which takes the aircraft out over Lake Erie (usually a 350° heading). This keeps the BKL departure aircraft away from CLE final approach courses. Use caution when departing IFR to ensure you remain at 2,000 feet and begin your tower assigned heading soon after takeoff.

For VFR aircraft, be aware of the "close proximity" of the Cleveland Class Bravo airspace and ensure you obtain a clearance prior to entering it.



Aaron Barnett  
Acting Air Traffic Manager  
Cleveland Hopkins Airport Traffic Control Tower