



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: JUN - 6 2013

To: Abigail Smith, Director, Aeronautical Products, AJV-3
Elizabeth Ray, Vice-President, Mission Support Services, AJV-0

From: Bruce DeCleene, Manager, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, AFS-400

Subject: Implementation of Radius-to-Fix (RF) Legs in Public Instrument Approach and Departure Procedure Design

The purpose of this memorandum is to set policy relating to the use of RF legs in the design of public instrument approach and departure procedures, exclusive of Required Navigation Performance (RNP) Authorization Required (AR) approach procedures.

AFS-400 approval via the Procedure Review Board (PRB) process is required prior to publication of public procedures with RF legs. Many operators do not have navigation systems with RF capability and are prohibited from using any part of a procedure that includes an RF leg. Therefore, consider availability of equivalent non-RF procedures during development. Procedures with RF legs should be separated from other procedures via application of duplicate naming standards, that is, use a discrete title suffix for approaches and name for departure procedures. Track-to-fix (TF) and other appropriate leg types may be used on procedures with RF legs.

While we fully support use of RF legs to enable enhanced safety and efficiency, use of the PRB process is currently necessary to ensure appropriate prioritization and alignment of various considerations. We will coordinate with PBN Policy and Support Group, AJV-14, Avionics Systems Branch, AIR-130, and other relevant offices as part of our review. We will also communicate this requirement to Flight Standards Service Regional NextGen Branches.

We also request that the Air Traffic Organization coordinate the development of any Standard Terminal Arrivals (STAR) that include an RF leg with AFS-400, in order to address these operational issues.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mark Steinbicker, Manager, Performance Based Flight Systems Branch, AFS-470, at (202) 385-4613.