

Flight Operations Group Responsibilities

The Flight Operations Group is responsible for developing safe CNS and air traffic management operations using existing and emerging technologies and innovative operational concepts. The Group enables better informed decisions through the responsibilities listed below.

- Technical guidance to the agency, other government agencies, and industry on operational and technical facets of:
 - Instrument flight operations
 - Performance based navigation
 - New and emerging flight technologies
 - Special areas of operation
 - New entrants, including Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- Develops, analyzes, and implements flight operational concepts, policies, standards, criteria, requirements, specifications, limitations, applications and approvals for rapidly changing and expanding technologies and programs. This includes: NextGen, communication, navigation, and surveillance systems, performance based navigation, navigation facilities, weather reporting devices, the navigation and operation of aircraft in oceanic, remote area, domestic en route, and terminal area operations, and for non-precision and precision instrument approaches.
- Provides the focal point for development of research & development programs related to instrument flight operations, performance based navigation, and new and emerging flight technologies and recommends requirements for navigation and visual systems in instrument flight operations.
- Integration of new and emerging technologies and technology-based operations into the NextGen air transportation system.
- Development of new operating concepts in the NAS, including guidance for the use of appropriate new technologies and procedures to improve safety and efficiency.
- Appraises the extent to which performance based navigation concepts, policies, standards, criteria, and procedures respond to rapidly changing and expanding programs and technology.
- Develops concepts and criteria for design, evaluation, and approval of Category I, Category II, and Category III approach and landing operations (including operating minimums, required airborne or ground-based or space based equipment, and airports/runways), and serves as the technical policy authority for these operations.
- Develops performance based navigation concepts, policies, standards, criteria, requirements, specifications, and limitations for new aircraft and new and existing airborne, ground-based and space-based systems used in instrument flight operations.

- In coordination with original equipment manufacturers, AIR, and AEGs, identifies and enunciates explicit operating procedures for pilots using new-technology products. Provides guidance to develop OpSpecs/MSpecs/LOA requirements related to instrument flight operations, operating minimums, performance based navigation, equipment, and training.
- Serves as the focal point for AVS aviation weather programs and is responsible for developing and implementing national policies, criteria, standards, and guidance related to the operational aspects of the agency's aviation weather program.
- Represents AFS in international meetings to further U.S. interests for the development of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) relating to flight technology, instrument flight operations, and performance-based navigation.
- Maintains liaison with foreign civil aviation operational and technical authorities to encourage acceptance of U.S. CNS standards and matters related to complex and controversial special technical operations, and to foster standards with a level of safety consonant with those of the U.S.
- Maintains liaison with foreign civil aviation operational and technical authorities to encourage the acceptance of United States instrument flight operations standards and to foster standards with a level of safety consonant with those of the U.S.