



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: 12/30/2009

To: Fred Anderson, Manager, Aeronautical Navigation Services, AJW-37

From: Leslie H. Smith, Acting Manager Flight Technologies and Procedures
Division, AFS-400

Subject: Updated Criteria for Airship Area Navigation (RNAV) Approach Procedures

PURPOSE: This memorandum provides interim policy for construction of area navigation (RNAV) approach procedures serving blimp airships. It is effective until canceled by this office and it replaces Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, AFS-400, memorandum subject, "Criteria for Blimp Approach", dated June 10, 2004, which is canceled.

POLICY: Use FAA Order 8260.42B, United States Standard for Helicopter Area Navigation (RNAV), for designing airship approaches with the following exceptions:

- Title the procedures "AIRSHIP RNAV (GPS) X X X"
- The chart depiction should emulate a Copter RNAV approach procedure
- Begin minimum lines with "A-" to signify Airship
- Substitute height above airport/height above surface (HAA/HAS) values for minimum descent altitudes (MDA) minima values
- The OPTIMUM descent gradient in all approach segments is 400 ft/nautical mile (NM); the MAXIMUM is 600 ft/NM. Where a higher gradient is operationally required, gradients up to 800 ft/NM may be authorized provided the gradient is depicted on the approach chart and turns at the precision final approach fix (PFAF), if required, are limited to 30 degrees or less.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jack Corman, Program Analyst, or Mr. Harry Hodges, Branch Manager, Flight Procedure Standards Branch, AFS-420, at (405) 954-4164.