



FAA

Aviation Safety

Memorandum

Date: February 25, 2019

To: Gary L. Powell, Director, Aeronautical Information Services

From:  Digitally signed by DANNY E HAMILTON
Date: 2019.0 .
Mark Steinbicker, Manager, Flight Technologies & Procedures Division

Subject: Visibility Requirement for Helicopter Point in Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedures Terminating in “Proceed VFR” at Missed Approach Point

Purpose: To align criteria for establishing visibility requirements for PinS instrument approach procedures terminating in “Proceed VFR” with the visibility requirements specified 14 CFR Part 91.155.

Discussion: An amendment to 14 CFR Part 91.155 in February 2014 increased the basic visual flight rules (VFR) weather minimums for helicopters at night from ½ statute mile (SM) to 1 SM visibility. FAA Orders 8260.3D, United States Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) and 8260.42B, United States Standard for Helicopter Area Navigation (RNAV) authorize a minimum visibility of ¾ SM for PinS procedures that terminate with “Proceed VFR.” These two FAA directives require amendment to align with the minimum visibility specified in 14 CFR Part 91.155. Until we amend the orders to reflect this alignment, the visibility established for these type of approaches must not be lower than that required by Part 91.155.

Action: Use the following guidance for all helicopter PinS approach procedures terminating with “Proceed VFR” at the missed approach point:

- a. Annotate the lowest allowable daytime visibility in the minimums section.
- b. If the lowest allowable daytime visibility is less than 1 SM, enter a restriction in the “Notes” section of the appropriate form to specify increased night minimums, i.e., Night Visibility Minimum 1 SM.

Summary: Guidance provided in FAA Orders 8260.3D and 8260.42B for establishing minimum visibility requirements for Helicopter PinS procedures conflicts with 14 CFR Part 91.155. We are revising these directives to be consistent with 14 CFR 91.155. In the interim, the minimum visibility specified in 14 CFR Part 91.155 must be applied.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Webb, Flight Procedures and Airspace Group, at 202-267-8942 or mike.webb@faa.gov.