



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Interim Guidance for Evaluating Area  
Navigation (RNAV) Holding Patterns

Date: JUN 17 2004

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

Reply to  
Attn. of:

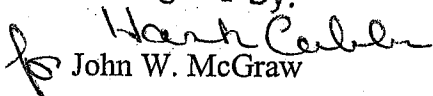
To: Program Director, Aviation System Standards,  
AVN-1

**PURPOSE:** This memorandum establishes interim guidance for evaluation of RNAV holding patterns.

**BACKGROUND:** Representatives of the aviation industry expressed concerns regarding containment sufficiency of the RNAV holding patterns described in FAA Order 7130.3A, Holding Pattern Criteria, chapter 6. A Flight Procedure Standards Branch, AFS-420, limited mathematical analysis concluded the holding pattern dimensions may be inadequate in some entry leg scenarios with crosswind conditions that result in excessive wind drift while dead reckoning.

**POLICY:** Develop holding patterns on original RNAV procedures and perform biennial reviews using Order 7130.3A, chapter 2, Conventional Holding Criteria. Use pattern sizes listed in Table 2 under the Fix-to-Navigational Aid Distance column for 15-29.9 nautical miles. For helicopter RNAV procedures, use pattern template size #4.

Please address questions concerning this policy to Don Pate, AFS-420, (405) 954-4164.

Original Signed By:  
  
John W. McGraw

cc:  
AFS-400 (sus: 20041588-0)  
AFS-405/410/420/430/440