



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

Aviation Safety

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

APR 03 2019

Captain Mark Bradley
Chairman
Performance Based Operations
Aviation Rulemaking Committee (PARC)
Delta Airlines
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30354-1989


Dear Captain Bradley:

Thank you and the PARC for the recommendation to address flight management computer (FMC) issues that occur when the Standard Terminal Arrival (STAR) Bottom Altitude is lower than Instrument Approach Procedure (IAP) Initial Approach Fix (IAF) altitude(s).

We will develop draft criteria to encourage procedure designers to specify STAR bottom altitudes not lower than the desired connecting point of any IAP it serves and to establish approach IAF altitudes not higher than the bottom altitude of planned connecting STAR(s). Contingent upon completion of a successful Safety Risk Management Analysis, we will incorporate this material into a revision of Federal Aviation Administration Order 8260.3, United States Standard for Instrument Procedures.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Steinbicker, Manager, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division at (202) 267-8790.

Sincerely,



Ali Bahrami
Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety

STAR Bottom Altitude vs IAF Altitude AVS Action Plan

Recommendation:

The PARC recommends that STAR bottom altitude vs IAF altitude be addressed by:

1. Add note to STAR criteria that would encourage assurance that STAR bottom altitude is above IAF altitude.
2. Add note to IAP criteria that would encourage assurance that IAF altitude is below STAR bottom altitude.

Task 1: Update guidance in Order 8260.3E

Responsible Office(s)	Expected Completion Date
AFS-420	Tentative: January 1, 2020
Proposed: Update FAA Order 8260.3E adding guidance to STAR and IAP criteria sections encouraging assurance that STAR bottom altitude is above IAF altitude and IAF altitude is below STAR bottom altitude	

Task 2: Work with AIS to evaluate need to update IFP automation.

Responsible Office(s)	Expected Completion Date
AFS-420, AIS, AJV-14	Oct 2020
Proposed: Work with AIS to determine if there are required TARGETS changes. TARGETS may require an update to the Requirement Specifications and a coding update to amend the software to support this change. AIS/AJV-14 testing of the software and training may be necessary prior to fielding the software.	