

## VFR Chart Print Schedule Realignment and Synchronization

### ACF 14-02

Ron Haag, AJV-3212, [briefed the audience](#) on AeroNav Products' intent to eventually provide digital updates of VFR Charts every 56 days. The plan is to provide an updated digital version of the VFR charts every 56 days and an updated paper version every 224 days. The first step of the plan, to be implemented in the near future, will be to extend the paper update cycle of Sectional and TAC charts from its current 168 and 196 days (alternating) to a standard 224 days. Ron stated that the purpose of the change is partly to synchronize the VFR charts with other FAA chart products (e.g. IFR Enroute Charts, TPPs, AFD, etc.). This change will also allow charts that share Class B airspace or have large overlapping areas to be printed concurrently.

Ted Thompson, Jeppesen, expressed concern that printing the charts and producing them digitally on different schedules will result in data conflicts. Ron replied that other than when both charts are released on the same date, the digital charts would have a more current date and would appear different because the information would be more up to date.

Rick Fecht, AJV-3213, stated that the AFD chart bulletin would enable paper users of the VFR charts to keep their charts up to date with the latest chart changes.

Lynette Jamison, AJR-B1, asked how the NOTAMS would be applied to the charts given the difference in versions and delivery method. Ron responded that the Visual charting team is investigating this and other issues that will provide challenges and does not plan to move forward until they are resolved. He stated that FAA Legal has been contacted and will help work these issues prior to implementation.

**ACTION:** Ron Haag, AJV-3212, to provide an update at the next ACF.

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### MEETING 15-01:

Rick Fecht, AJV-5223, briefed the issue. Rick stated that an internal study group was formed and is currently working on how to implement the change in print schedule. The study is due to be completed by the start of next fiscal year. Rick will provide an update on progress made at next ACF.

**ACTION:** Rick Fecht, AJV-5223, to provide an update at the next ACF.

**MEETING 15-02:**

Rick Fecht, AJV-5223, briefed the issue. Rick stated that a White Paper submitted to management detailing the changes to the VFR chart print schedule has been accepted and is now part of the operations plan, with a target implementation start date of early 2017. There remains a lot of work to be done within Visual Charting to meet this target and management is actively working through those issues.

Rune Duke, AOPA, asked if the FAA is planning to provide a public comment period on this change of business practice. Rick stated that at the present time, a public comment period has not been addressed. Rune asked that the FAA have a comment period so that all stakeholders have an opportunity to review the details of the change and provide comments back to the FAA. John Moore, Jeppesen, suggested that a Notice of Proposed Policy (NPP) could be published in the Federal Register to inform the public of the change and to solicit public comment. Valerie agreed to take this recommendation back to FAA management.

Lev Prichard, APA, inquired if the digital editions of the VFR charts are updated and published more frequently than the paper editions? Rick responded that for now, the digital publishing cycle mirrors the paper publishing cycle. Intermediate changes are published only via textual notice in the Chart Bulletin section in the Airport Facility Directories. The long term goal is to publish all the charts on a 56 day cycle.

Rich Boll, NBAA, asked if those long term plans included a single, master digital raster VFR chart. Rick stated that at present, the FAA does not have plans for generating a master digital chart.

**ACTION:** Rick Fecht, AJV-5223, to provide an update at the next ACF.

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**MEETING 16-01:**

Rick Fecht, FAA/AJV-5223, briefed the issue. Rick stated that since the last ACF, the proposed change to the Visual Charting Print Schedule has been eclipsed by the shift to Available on Demand (AOD) Printing (see [ACF 16-01 Minutes](#) for briefing on AOD Printing Briefing). Rick added that this shift would enable the Visual Charting Team to adjust resources to focus on other projects that are of interest to stakeholders, such as developing a digitally seamless U.S. VFR Chart and moving to a 56 day VFR product update schedule. Given these changes, this topic is withdrawn.