



# Federal Aviation Administration

---

## CHARTING NOTICE

---

Date: May 11, 2026

To: Users of the Airport Diagrams in the Chart Supplement Publication and the Terminal Procedures Publication (TPP) – All Volumes

From: Aeronautical Information Services (AIS)

Subject: Update to Magnetic Variation Calculation Methods for Airport Diagrams - Effective Date: May 14, 2026

---

The Airport Mapping Team implemented a new process for publishing magnetic variation values on FAA airport diagrams to ensure alignment with the instrument flight procedures published in the Terminal Procedures Publication.

### Key Changes:

**Previous Method:** Until the March 19, 2026 cycle, the magnetic variation values published on airport diagrams were calculated for the entire inventory once every five years using the World Magnetic Model (WMM), based on the epoch year provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**New Method:** Starting with the May 14, 2026 effective date, the magnetic variation published on FAA airport diagrams will better align with the value documented on 8260 forms, which is typically the magnetic variation used for the development and maintenance of instrument flight procedures. This change ensures alignment across all FAA aeronautical charts and publications, including the FAA Terminal Procedures Publication.

### Implementation:

Airport diagrams may display a year stamp based on the procedure date (e.g., “2015”) rather than the last calculation date using the WMM (e.g., “2025”). In some geographic areas, differences between the two methods may be significant, but the new process will ensure consistency with existing source data.

Example: **Newark Liberty Intl (EWR), Newark, NJ -**

March 19, 2026 Airport Diagram magnetic variation = **12.5W (January 2025)**

RNAV flight procedures magnetic variation = **13W (1985)**

May 14, 20216 Airport Diagram magnetic variation: **13W (1985)**

Difference = **0.5**

For questions or comments, please contact [9-AWA-AJV-A2-Apt-MapTeam@faa.gov](mailto:9-AWA-AJV-A2-Apt-MapTeam@faa.gov)

View Aeronautical Information Services [Safety Alerts and Charting Notices](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/safety_alerts/) at  
([https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/flight\\_info/aeronav/safety\\_alerts/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/safety_alerts/))  
for awareness of chart and data corrections. A page subscription service is available.

For awareness or participation in a public forum to identify issues concerning safety and usefulness of aeronautical charts and flight information products/services, and discuss change proposals to specifications and methodologies visit [Aeronautical Charting Meeting](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/acf/)  
([Chart Group](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/acf/)) at ([https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/flight\\_info/aeronav/acf/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/acf/)).  
A page subscription service is available.

For aeronautical data or charting inquiries visit the [Aeronautical Information Portal](https://nfdc.faa.gov/nfdcApps/controllers/PublicSecurity/nfdcLogin)  
(<https://nfdc.faa.gov/nfdcApps/controllers/PublicSecurity/nfdcLogin>)