



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

APR 29 2016

Great Lakes Region
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter dated March 21, 2016, to Federal Aviation Administrator Michael Huerta. Administrator Huerta asked that I provide a response to your questions.

- 1) "All aircraft must climb to the 3,000 feet AGL altitude upon takeoff?"
 - a. All aircraft are assigned an initial climb restriction of 5,000 feet
- 2) "All group six type aircraft on the other hand are exempt?"
 - a. No aircraft group is exempt from the Climb Restrictions that are published in the Departure Procedures. Individual aircraft that are unable to comply with the crossing restriction for any reason (weight, outside air temperature, etc.) are required to advise Air Traffic Control. In such cases, Air Traffic coordinates with all potentially impacted facilities, and ensures safe separation and routing.
- 3) "Can we assume that all night time mixed fleet take offs will be programmed to the westerly take off flight patterns/plates?"
 - a. No, O'Hare Air Traffic Control does not intend to exclusively use 'westerly take-offs'. As discussed in earlier correspondence, runway utilization and associated flight paths is largely wind and weather dependent.

You may be aware that the City of Chicago and the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) are currently exploring options for using O'Hare's available runways in a different manner during nighttime hours, to address present-day community noise concerns. From this effort, there is a possibility that your neighborhood may see a difference in nighttime activity at some point in the future, depending on what ONCC and the City propose, and contingent upon agreement by FAA that any alternative runway use proposal is acceptable from a safety and efficiency perspective. As in the past, I encourage you to share your concerns and thoughts with your community's representative to the ONCC.

Sincerely,

Barry D. Cooper
Regional Administrator
Great Lakes Region