

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N JO 7210.977

Air Traffic Organization Policy

Effective Date:
September 14, 2026

Cancellation Date:
December 24, 2026

SUBJ: Micro-EARTS 3 Mile Operations

1. Purpose of this Notice. This notice incorporates guidance from FAA Order JO 7110.124, Micro-processor En-Route Automated Radar Tracking System (Micro-EARTS) Fused Display Mode (FDM) for 3 NM and 5 NM Separation Throughout the National Airspace System (NAS) and integrates its guidance for establishing 3 NM Separation Areas for Micro-EARTS facilities into FAA Order JO 7210.3, paragraph 8-2-1, Three Mile Operations.

2. Audience. This Notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization service units: Air Traffic Services, Safety and Technical Training, Service Centers, and all facilities that utilize Micro-EARTS.

3. Where can I Find This Notice? This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the Air Traffic Plans and Publications website at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.

4. Background. Micro En Route Automation Radar Tracking System (Micro-EARTS) has supported Fusion since 2017. FAA Order, JO 7110.124, provides guidance for adapting Micro-EARTS to 3 NM use while in FDM. However, guidance for 3 NM separation using Micro-EARTS while in FDM is not available in FAA Order JO 7210.3, Facility Operation and Administration, paragraph 8-2-1 Three Mile Operations. Adding 3 NM use guidance will facilitate Micro-EARTS use of the 3 NM separation standard at and below FL 230.

5. Action. Amend FAA Order JO 7210.3 by changing the following paragraphs to read as follows:

8-2-1. THREE MILE OPERATIONS

Facilities may adapt airspace to permit the use of 3 NM separation as defined in FAA Order JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, subparagraph 5-5-4c, subparagraph 5-5-4d, subparagraph 5-5-4e, or subparagraph 5-5-4f, provided all of the following are met:

a. An operational advantage will be obtained. Consideration must be given to such aspects as terminal interface, radar reliability, etc.

b. Facility directives are issued to:

1. Define the 3 NM separation area.

2. Permit 3 NM separation in the defined area.

3. Accommodate local procedural changes.

c. ERAM:

1. The 3 NM separation area is displayable on the video map.
2. The aircraft alert volume is adapted for 3 NM separation.
3. Within 40 NM of the preferred radar; or
4. Within 60 NM of the preferred radar when using an MSSR; or
5. When the facility is operating in track-based display mode.

d. MEARTS. EN ROUTE. Fused Display Mode (FDM):

1. The 3 NM separation area is displayable on the video map.
2. The fusion target symbol must be used at displays utilizing 3 NM separation areas.
3. FDM surveillance data may be used for 3 NM and 5 NM separation in Terminal and En-Route environments using Micro-EARTS when an operational advantage and an increase in safety and efficiency are realized. Facility directive must specify 3 NM FDM airspace using the most operationally advantageous combination of available surveillance sources and in accordance with the provisions of FAA Order, JO 7110.65, paragraph 5-5-4, Minima. 3 NM FDM is not allowed when the only surveillance input is long range radar.
4. 3 NM FDM airspace may be enabled or disabled as needed. Once disabled, the affected airspace must use 5 NM FDM separation.
5. The entire facility must be in either FDM or Sensor/Mosaic Display Mode. All facility displays will return to Mosaic Display Mode, with all single sensor polygons disabled, when FDM is exited.

e. MEARTS Mosaic Mode: All sort boxes within 40 NM of the sensor or within 60 NM of the sensor when using an MSSR and with the single site indicator set to permit the use of 3 NM radar separation.

No further changes to paragraph

6. Distribution. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, and System Operations, and Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

09/14/26

N JO 7210.977

JON M
STOWE

 Digitally signed by JON M
STOWE
Date: 2026.07.17
10:26:33 -04'00'

Jon M. Stowe
Director, Policy, AJV-P
Mission Support Services
Air Traffic Organization (ATO)