NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7210.979

Effective Date:
November 24, 2026

Cancellation Date:
June 9, 2027

SUBJ: Line Up and Wait (LUAW) Operations Watch Supervision Requirement

1. Purpose of this Notice. This notice mandates that a stand-alone watch supervision position be staffed as an additional requirement for conducting Line Up and Wait (LUAW) operations.

2. Audience. This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Readiness Services, System Operations Services, Operational System Intelligence, and all associated air traffic facilities.

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. The core purpose of this change is to elevate the safety standard for Line Up and Wait (LUAW) operations by removing ambiguity in staffing requirements. By upgrading the guidance from "should" (a recommendation) to "must" (a mandatory requirement), the FAA ensures that the personnel providing watch supervision (OS/CIC) are fully dedicated to overseeing the safety of the operation without the distraction of simultaneously managing other operational tasks.

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

10–3–8. LINE UP AND WAIT (LUAW) OPERATIONS

Title through Subparagraph a.3. No Change

4. Local control position must not be consolidated/combined with any other non−local control position. For example, local control must not be consolidated/combined with the watch supervision (OS/CIC) position, clearance delivery, flight data, ground control, cab coordinator, etc. Local control can be combined with other local control positions to include tower associate (local assist) or local monitor position. When a Class B/helicopter position with defined control tower airspace is established, this position can be combined with local control.

Subparagraph a5, No Change

6. A stand-alone watch supervision (OS/CIC) position must be staffed and must not be combined with any other position.

No further changes to paragraph

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

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