

# NOTICE

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N JO 7110.679

### Air Traffic Organization Policy

**Effective Date:**  
October 01, 2014

**Cancellation Date:**  
January 08, 2015

#### **SUBJ:** Special VFR (SVFR) Separation

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**1. Purpose of this Notice.** This notice clarifies separation standards to be used between Special VFR fixed wing aircraft, Special VFR Helicopters, and IFR aircraft.

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

**3. Where can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee Web site at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the air traffic publications Web site at [http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications).

**4. Procedures.** Amend FAA Order JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, Paragraph 7-5-3, Separation, to read as follows:

#### **7-5-3. SEPARATION**

**a.** Apply non-radar or visual separation between:

1. SVFR fixed wing aircraft.
2. SVFR fixed-wing aircraft and SVFR Helicopters.
3. SVFR fixed-wing aircraft and IFR aircraft.

#### **NOTE --**

**1.** Vertical separation is authorized between SVFR fixed wing aircraft and IFR aircraft as prescribed in FAA JO 7110.65, Paragraph 7-5-4 Altitude Assignments.

**2.** Due to the requirements for SVFR fixed-wing aircraft to maintain 1-mile flight visibility and to remain clear of clouds, radar separation is not authorized during SVFR fixed-wing operations. Radar vectors are authorized, as prescribed in para 5-6-1, Application, subparagraph f, to expedite the entrance, exit, and transition of SVFR fixed-wing aircraft through the appropriate surface area.

#### **REFERENCE**

FAAO JO 7110.65, Chapter 6, Nonradar

FAAO JO 7110.65, para 7-2-1 Visual Separation

FAAO JO 7110.65, para 7-5-4 Altitude Assignment

**b.** Apply non-radar, visual, or IFR radar separation between:

1. SVFR Helicopters.
2. SVFR Helicopters and IFR aircraft.

**NOTE -**

- 1. Vertical separation is authorized between SVFR helicopters and IFR aircraft as prescribed in FAA JO 7110.65, Paragraph 7-5-4 Altitude Assignments
- 2. Radar separation as prescribed in Chapter 5 may be applied provided that the facility conducting the operation is authorized to provide radar separation services in accordance with FAAO 7210.3, paragraph 10-5-3, Functional Use of Certified Tower radar Displays, subparagraph b5, and subparagraph d. Facilities that are not delegated airspace or separation responsibility must use CTRDs in accordance with FAAO 7110.65, paragraph 3-1-9, Use of Tower Radar Displays, subparagraph b.

b through b2, Renumber to c through c2

**NOTE -**

- 1. Vertical separation is authorized between SVFR helicopters and IFR aircraft as prescribed in FAAO 7110.65, 7-5-4, Altitude Assignments.
- 2. Radar separation as prescribed in Chapter 5 may be applied provided that the facility conducting the operation is authorized to provide radar separation services in accordance with FAAO 7210.3, paragraph 10-5-3, Functional Use of Certified Tower radar Displays, subparagraph b5, and subparagraph d. Facilities that are not delegated airspace or separation responsibility must use CTRDs in accordance with FAAO 7110.65, paragraph 3-1-9, Use of Tower Radar Displays, subparagraph b.

**REFERENCE-**

- FAAO JO 7110.65, Para 2-1-4, Operational Priority.
- FAAO JO 7110.65, para 7-2-1, Visual Separation
- FAAO JO 7110.65, para 7-5-4 Altitude Separation
- FAAO JO 7110.65, Chapter 6, Nonradar
- FAAO JO 7210.3, para 10-5-3, Functional Use of Certified Tower Radar Displays.

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

**6. Background.** On March 6<sup>th</sup> 2014, a workgroup convened to provide consensus and recommendations to clearly define and modify FAA JO 7110.65 requirements as they relate to SVFR operations in the NAS. The workgroup consisted of Air Traffic Services, Mission Support, Safety and Technical Training, Flight Standards, NATCA, and SUPCOM. The workgroup concluded that although paragraph 7-5-3 described the SVFR separation standards between fixed-wing aircraft, and Alternate SVFR minima for helicopters, it did not adequately address the separation minima to be used for SVFR helicopters. This change does not affect the current limitations on the use of pilot applied visual separation in surface areas without an operating control tower.

*Ma J. Hoff* FOR HEATHER HEMDAL  
 Heather Hemdal  
 Director, Air Traffic Procedures  
 Air Traffic Organization

*8-14-14*  
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 Date Signed