

# NOTICE

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

N 8200.121

National Policy

Effective Date:  
8/20/10

Cancellation Date:  
8/20/11

**SUBJ:** MLS DME and TACAN Distance Accuracy Tolerances (Order 8200.1C, Chapter 24)

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** Microwave Landing System (MLS) Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) distance accuracy tolerances in Chapter 24 were changed to reflect “3.0% of charted distance or 0.2 nm, whichever is greater.” This change only affects flight inspections applying Chapter 24 criteria to restore service following a major disaster, or establishing service in a military combat/ contingency area.
- 2. Audience.** The audience for this notice is the Air Traffic Technical Operations Eastern, Central, and Western Service Areas; Aviation System Standards Flight Inspection Operations Group offices and crewmembers; Air Force Flight Standards Agency (AFFSA); the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Standards Flight; the U.S. Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama; the Flight Standards Flight Technologies and Procedures Division; and users of FAA Order 8200.1, USSFIM.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** Go to the Directives Management System (DMS) website: [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) or the Aviations System Standards website: <http://www.avn.faa.gov/index.asp?xml=fioo/notices>
- 4. Background.** The old Chapter 24 MLS DME tolerance simply said, “3.0% of the charted distance.” When applied at distances less than 6.67 nm (the distance at which 3% equals 0.2 nm) this tolerance is more restrictive than the standard  $\pm 0.2$  nm tolerance. The old Chapter 24 TACAN DME tolerance (3% of the charted value or 1.0 nm, whichever is greater) allowed an error of  $\pm 1.0$  nm up to 33.3 nm (where 1 nm equals 3% of the distance). With modern improvements in DME technology, it is reasonable to tighten the tolerance by changing 1.0 nm to 0.2 nm.
- 5. Guidance.** Please make the following pen and ink changes to FAA Order 8200.1C, Chapter 24, Section 4.
  - a. In Paragraph 24.43, change the Tolerances/ Procedures column for “DME” to read, “No unlocks in final approach segment, accuracy 3.0% of charted distance, *or 0.2 nm, whichever is greater.*”

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Distribution: AJW-C/E/W/ 33; AFFSA; 1 ASF

Initiated By: AJW-331  
Air Traffic Technical Operations  
Aviation System Standards  
Flight Inspection Policy

b. In Paragraph 24.45, change the Tolerances/ Procedures column for “Distance Accuracy” to read, “3% of charted *distance* or 0.2 nm, whichever is greater.”

The above guidance will be incorporated in the next change to FAA Order 8200.1C. For additional information, please contact Don McGough, Flight Inspection Policy, 405-954-3050.



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