

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7110.507

Effective Date:
July 31, 2009

Cancellation Date:
February 11, 2010

SUBJ: Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Exceptions and Department of Defense (DOD)-Certified Aircraft

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice transmits editorial and content changes to air traffic procedural guidance in Federal Aviation Administration Order (FAAO) 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, related to RVSM-excepted aircraft types. Specific National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) aircraft types that are “DOD-certified aircraft” are listed.
- 2. Audience.** This notice is intended for all air traffic personnel at en route operational air traffic control facilities.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** The notice is available on the MYFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the air traffic publications Web site at http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/air_traffic/publications.
- 4. Procedures/Responsibilities.** Amend FAAO 7110.65, Paragraph 2-1-28, RVSM Operations, to read as follows:

2-1-28. RVSM OPERATIONS

Controller responsibilities shall include but not be limited to the following:

a. Non-RVSM aircraft operating in RVSM airspace.

1. Ensure non-RVSM aircraft are not permitted in RVSM airspace unless they meet the criteria of excepted aircraft and are previously approved by the operations supervisor/CIC. The following aircraft are excepted: DOD, DOD-certified aircraft operated by NASA (T38, F15, F18, WB57, S3, and U2 aircraft only), Lifeguard, manufacturer aircraft being flown for development/certification, and foreign State aircraft. These exceptions are accommodated on a workload- or traffic-permitting basis.

NOTE-

The operations supervisor/CIC is responsible for system acceptance of a non-RVSM aircraft beyond the initial sector-to-sector coordination following the pilot request to access the airspace. Operations supervisor/CIC responsibilities are defined in FAAO 7210.3, Chapter 6, Section 9, Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM).

- 5. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the Air Traffic Organization (ATO) En Route and Oceanic Safety and Operations Support office, En Route and Oceanic Operations service areas, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service, and all air route traffic control centers (ARTCC).
- 6. Background.** The FAA and NASA executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in December 2001 concerning the DOD implementation of RVSM. Within this MOU, the FAA agreed to accommodate DOD aircraft that were not RVSM equipped. It was determined later that certain

United States (U.S.) Government agencies operated some of these same types of aircraft that were not RVSM equipped. An addendum was signed between the FAA and DOD in September 2002 to include “all DOD certified aircraft operated by the U.S. Government” as exceptions. FAA ARTCCs voiced concern that NASA was operating various aircraft that were not clearly identified as being “DOD certified” and asked that the pertinent directives be modified to clarify the specific types of NASA aircraft that should be exceptions to operate in RVSM airspace.

7. Safety Management System. Appropriate safety management documentation, following FAAO 1100.161, Air Traffic Safety Oversight; FAAO JO 1000.37, Air Traffic Organization Safety Management System; and the ATO Safety Management System Manual, has been completed in support of this notice.


FOR Nancy B. Kalinowski

Vice President, System Operations Services
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7-22-09

Date Signed