

NOTICE

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

N JO 7210.722

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) 7210.3, Facility Operation and Administration, 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.
- 6. Procedures/Responsibilities.** Amend FAAO 7210.3, Paragraphs 6-9-1, General, and 6-9-5, Non-RVSM Requirements, to read as follows:

6-9-1. GENERAL

Title thru b1. No change.

NOTE-

- 1. The following non-RVSM aircraft are exceptions to the exclusive RVSM airspace. However, access will be on a workload-permitting basis:*
 - a. DOD aircraft.*
 - b. DOD-certified aircraft operated by NASA (T38, F15, F18, WB57, S3, and U2 aircraft only).*
 - c. Lifeguard aircraft.*
 - d. Aircraft being flown by manufacturers for development and certification.*
 - e. Foreign State aircraft.*
- 2. Aircraft not approved for RVSM operations may transition through RVSM airspace to operate above or below.*

6-9-5. NON-RVSM REQUIREMENTS

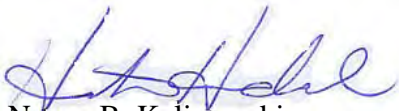
Title thru a. No change.

b. DOD, DOD-certified aircraft operated by NASA (T38, F15, F18, WB57, S3, and U2 aircraft only), Lifeguard, aircraft operated by manufacturers for certification and development, and foreign State exception aircraft will be accommodated in RVSM airspace on a workload-permitting basis.

7. 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).

8. 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.

9. 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.


Nancy B. Kalinowski
Vice President, System Operations Services
Air Traffic Organization

7-22-09

Date Signed