

# NOTICE

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

N JO 7210.751

**Effective Date:**  
October 1, 2010

**Cancellation Date:**  
March 10, 2011

**SUBJ:** Aircraft Communication Status

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides air traffic procedural guidance to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order JO 7210.3, Facility Operation and Administration, related to air traffic control (ATC) operations regarding the establishment, transfer, and loss of communications with aircraft.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal Services, and System Operations Services; the ATO Office of Safety; 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. Explanation of Policy Change.** This notice addresses two changes to clarify expectations of actions to be taken by air traffic controllers and ATC management that communication status is to be included during transfer of position responsibility briefings and adds a new section that directs facility managers to ensure prompt notification to the Domestic Events Network (DEN) of any suspicious aircraft/pilot activities as defined in FAA Order JO 7610.4, Special Operations, paragraph 7-3-1.
- 5. Procedures.**
  - a.** Add Paragraph 2-1-28, Suspicious Aircraft/Pilot Activities, to FAA Order JO 7210.3 to read as follows:

## **2-1-28. SUSPICIOUS AIRCRAFT/PILOT ACTIVITIES**

Facility air traffic managers must ensure that processes are in place to direct prompt notification to the DEN of any suspicious aircraft/pilot activities as prescribed in FAA Order JO 7610.4, paragraph 7-3-1.

- b.** Amend FAA Order JO 7210.3, Paragraph 2-2-4, Transfer of Position Responsibility, subparagraph b, to read as follows:

## **2-2-4. DUTY FAMILIARIZATION AND THE TRANSFER OF POSITION RESPONSIBILITY**

Title thru a, no change.

- b.** Air traffic managers must determine which sectors or positions must maintain operational continuity through a transfer of position responsibility and must:

1. Review each sector or position and provide a tailored checklist which lists the equipment and the operational conditions which are likely to be a factor at that position.

(a) Items which should be included on the checklist, if relevant, are:

Subparagraph b1(a)(1) through b1(a)(14), no change.


(15) COMMUNICATION STATUS and TRAFFIC.

No further change to paragraph.

**6. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Terminal, En Route and Oceanic, and System Operations Services; the ATO Office of Safety; Office of the Service Center; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

**7. Background.** In light of several recent loss of communication events in the National Airspace System (NAS), a multidisciplinary team reviewed and analyzed how to improve air traffic control operations regarding the establishment, transfer, and loss of communications with aircraft. Additionally, the process of promptly notifying the DEN needs to be clarified. This notice is based on the recommendations of the team.

**8. Safety Management System.** This change does not negatively affect the NAS and there are no safety impacts. Therefore, no further SRM analysis is required.

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

7-16-10  
Date Signed