

# NOTICE

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

N JO 7210.829

**Effective Date:**  
November 15, 2012

**Cancellation Date:**  
August 22, 2013

**SUBJ:** ICAO Flight Plan 2012 Changes to FAA Order JO 7210.3

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**1. Purpose of This Notice.** International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Document 4444, Air Traffic Management, states that certain items may be included in an ICAO flight plan to denote reasons for special handling. This notice provides guidance to facilities regarding the handling of those who file special handling remarks in their ICAO flight plan.

**2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, Mission Support, and System Operations; and all air traffic control field 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 7210.3 to read as follows:

#### 6-9-1. GENERAL

Title through b, no change.

1. RVSM Airspace. Use of the term RVSM airspace refers to the RVSM exclusive environment. Aircraft operating in this airspace must be RVSM-approved.

#### *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. MEDEVAC 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.*

No further changes to paragraph.

#### 6-9-5. NON-RVSM REQUIREMENTS

Title through a, no change.

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

No further changes to paragraph.

**8-1-2. ALTRV FLIGHT DATA PROCESSING**

- a. Facilities must process ALTRV flight plans as follows:

Subparagraphs a1 through a4, no change.

5. Flight Plan Entries for MARSA and ALTRV

(a) For domestic flight plans (not leaving U.S. domestic airspace), include “MARSA” and/or “ALTRV” in Field 11.

(b) For international flight plans, include the word(s) “MARSA” and/or “ALTRV” in the Reasons for Special Handling (STS/). Do not include additional/supplemental information in STS/. Include any additional/supplemental information in Remarks (RMK/).

**EXAMPLES-**  
*STS/ALTRV*

*STS/MARSA RMK/AR20HFAKER1233 IR101E1802X1845 MARSA BAKER23*

No further changes to paragraph.

**12-1-5. CATEGORIES OF OPERATIONS**

- a. All itinerant and overflight operations are reported in the following categories:

Subparagraph a1, no change.

2. Air Taxi: Operations by aircraft other than those identified in Appendix 3 which use three-letter company designators or the prefix “T” (TANGO) or “L” (MEDEVAC).

No further changes to paragraph.

**17-9-13. VFR FLIGHTS**

Title through a, no change.

b. Aircraft requesting to remain VFR will be at the discretion of the terminal facility with the GDP, if they can be accommodated without additional delay to IFR aircraft, except in unusual circumstances; for example, emergency, MEDEVAC.

**17-21-4. EXCEPTED FLIGHTS**

Under the authority granted in 14 CFR Section 91.180, the Administrator has determined that the following groups of non-RVSM aircraft may enter RVSM airspace subject to FAA approval and clearance:

- a. Department of Defense aircraft;
- b. Foreign State (government) aircraft;
- c. Active air ambulance utilizing MEDEVAC call sign;
- d. Flights conducted for aircraft certification and development flights for RVSM.

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

**6. Background.** This notice addresses ICAO Document 4444, Air Traffic Management. This document mandates that certain items may be included in an ICAO flight plan to denote reasons for special handling. This includes replacing the term “LIFEGUARD” with the term “MEDEVAC.” The document also defines the ICAO special handling remarks of HOSP and AIR EVAC aircraft.

**7. Safety Management System.** The information contained in this notice is in the DCPs attached to the Safety Risk Management Document (SRMD) titled ICAO 2012 Flight Plan Changes – Amendment dated June 6, 2012.



Elizabeth L. Ray  
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Air Traffic Organization

October 24, 2012  
Date Signed