

NOTICE

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

N JO 7210.839

Effective Date:
March 7, 2013

Cancellation Date:
August 22, 2013

SUBJ: AvMet Volcanic Ash

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice adds the detection of sulfur gases (SO₂ and H₂S) in the aircraft cabin to the list of significant weather phenomena that are to be handled and disseminated as URGENT pilot reports (PIREP).
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to FAA air traffic control facilities and flight service stations.
- 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/ and on the air traffic publications Web site at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.
- 4. Cancellation.** This notice cancels N JO 7210.817, AvMet Volcanic Ash, effective July 13, 2012.
- 5. Procedures.** Amend FAA Order JO 7210.3, paragraph 6-3-1, to read as follows:

6-3-1. HANDLING OF SIGMETs, CWAs, AND PIREPs

Title through b2, no change.

c. PIREP classification: Categorize PIREPs as follows:

1. **URGENT:** Weather phenomena reported by a pilot which represents a hazard or a potential hazard to flight operations. Disseminate reports of the following conditions as URGENT PIREPs.

Subparagraphs c1(a) through c1(f), no change.

- (g) Detection of sulfur gases (SO₂ or H₂S), associated with volcanic activity, in the cabin.

NOTE-

The smell of sulfur gases in the cockpit may indicate volcanic activity that has not yet been detected or reported and/or possible entry into an ash-bearing cloud. SO₂ is identifiable as the sharp, acrid odor of a freshly struck match. H₂S has the odor of rotten eggs.

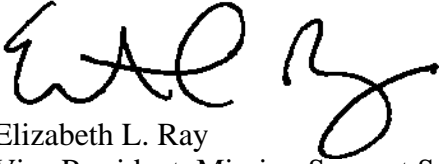
Subparagraph c1(g), re-letter to c1(h).

No further changes to paragraph.

- 6. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Terminal, En Route and Oceanic, System Operations, and Mission Support; 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.

- 7. Background.** The FAA is responsible for providing meteorological data to stakeholders of the National Airspace System. This includes disseminating and distributing observations, forecasts, and

warning messages that pertain to volcanic activity including volcanic ash. PIREPs for volcanic activity and volcanic ash are provided to air traffic control in a specified format which is delineated in the Aeronautical Information Manual. These reports are then forwarded to the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers and are used to issue volcanic ash SIGMETs. These changes follow new International Civil Aviation Organization guidelines as set forth by the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group and are in effect as of November 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EL Ray', is positioned above the printed name.

Elizabeth L. Ray
Vice President, Mission Support Services
Air Traffic Organization