



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

Air Traffic Organization Policy

**NOTICE
N JO 7110.465**

Cancellation Date:
August 30, 2007

SUBJ: Definition of "Directly Behind"

- 1. PURPOSE.** This notice provides clarification and modification to Federal Aviation Administration Order (FAAO) 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, Paragraph 5-5-4, Minima.
- 2. DISTRIBUTION.** This notice is distributed to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, Safety, and System Operations Services, service area offices, the William J. Hughes Technical Center, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and all air traffic control field facilities.
- 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This notice is effective May 15, 2007.
- 4. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY.** The notice is available on the Directives Management Information System 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.
- 5. BACKGROUND.** Recently, questions have arisen regarding the definition of "Directly Behind" as used in FAAO 7110.65, Paragraph 5-5-4, Minima. A note has been added to provide clarification. Also, a definition of directly behind has been added to the Pilot/Controller Glossary.
- 6. ACTION.** Facility managers shall ensure that all air traffic control personnel are briefed on this notice before the effective date of this notice.
- 7. PROCEDURES.**

a. Add an additional note to FAAO 7110.65, Paragraph 5-5-4, Minima, subparagraph e, as follows:

NOTE-

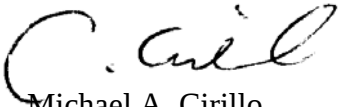
1. *When applying wake turbulence separation criteria, directly behind means an aircraft is operating within 2,500 feet of the flight path of the leading aircraft over the surface of the earth.*

2. *Consider parallel runways less than 2,500 feet apart as a single runway because of the possible effects of wake turbulence.*

b. Add the following definition to the Pilot Controller Glossary as follows:

DIRECTLY BEHIND - An aircraft is considered to be operating directly behind when it is following the actual flight path of the lead aircraft over the surface of the earth except when applying wake turbulence separation criteria.

8. IMPLEMENTATION. This notice must be implemented on the effective date. This notice will be incorporated in change 3 to FAAO 7110.65R, effective August 30, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Cirillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "C".

Michael A. Cirillo
Vice President, System Operations Services
Air Traffic Organization