

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.510

National Policy

Effective Date:
4/24/19

Cancellation Date:
4/24/20

SUBJ: Volcanic Ash Avoidance, Concepts, Policies, and Guidance

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice announces new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 8900.1 Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 7, Safety Assurance System: Volcanic Ash Avoidance, Concepts, Policies, and Guidance, providing guidance on volcanic ash (VA) avoidance. Currently, there is no guidance to allow an operation to fly above a VA cloud. This notice explains in what conditions aircraft could potentially be approved to fly above VA with proper flight planning. The Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, in cooperation with the Air Transportation Division and the General Aviation and Commercial Division, developed this notice.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards Safety Assurance offices' aviation safety inspectors (ASI) and Principal Operations Inspectors (POI) with oversight responsibilities for operators conducting airplane operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91, 91 subpart K (part 91K), 121, 125 (including part 125 Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) holders), and 135. The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and Foundational Business offices.

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the FAA's website at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. VA encounters over the past 30 years have had a significant impact on the safety of crew and passengers. Those encounters have resulted in engine failures and static discharges, to name a few issues. VA activity poses a significant threat to aviation and must be avoided at all costs.

5. Action. Inspectors who deal with flight operations that potentially fly near volcanic eruptions/VA should review the guidance in Order 8900.1 Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 7 and ensure their operators have taken appropriate actions to avoid VA encounters.

6. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to the Air Transportation Division at 202-267-8166.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Carty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert C. Carty
Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service