NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.790

National Policy

Effective Date:
10/19/26

Cancellation Date:
10/19/27

SUBJ: Updated Designation of Northern Area of Magnetic Unreliability Affecting B040 Authorizations

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice announces a revision to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) designation of the Northern Area of Magnetic Unreliability (AMU) as published in Advisory Circular (AC) 91-70, Oceanic and Remote Continental Airspace Operations, and in inspector guidance in FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System. The revisions announced in this notice affect operators under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 91 subpart K (part 91K), 121, 121/135, 125 (including part 125 Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) holders), and 135, especially those holding or interested in holding the B040 authorization, "Operations in Areas of Magnetic Unreliability." This notice also requires Safety Assurance offices to notify affected operators about these changes. This notice contains information that is administrative in nature.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards (FS) Safety Assurance offices' principal inspectors (PI) and aviation safety inspectors (ASI) assigned to operators under 14 CFR parts 91K, 121, 121/135, 125 (including part 125 LODA holders), and 135. The secondary audience includes all other FS personnel and 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 and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at https://drs.faa.gov. Operators and the public can find this notice on the FAA's website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices and DRS.

4. Background.

a. 2023 Notice. In 2023, FS published Notice N 8900.672, New Boundaries for Areas of Magnetic Unreliability and South Polar Area of Operation. Also in 2023, FS published inspector guidance in Order 8900.1 depicting the Northern AMU, centered on the 2020 location of the Magnetic North Pole. This initial designation included Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base), Greenland, where all headings and courses are referenced to True North.

b. 2025 Update. In 2025, FS updated the depiction of the Northern AMU based on the 2025 location of the Magnetic North Pole, which had wandered approximately 125 nautical miles (NM) away from North America. Pituffik Space Base was now more than 1,000 NM from the Magnetic North Pole, and thus no longer in the designated Northern AMU.

5. Discussion. The B040 authorization focuses on an operator's ability to navigate using references other than magnetic and is required to operate in the designated AMUs. The Northern AMU includes Canadian Northern Domestic Airspace (NDA), where courses and headings are referenced to True North, and which includes areas that are well beyond 1,000 NM from the Magnetic North Pole. FS has determined that the B040 authorization should be required for operations to Pituffik Space Base and therefore has adjusted the designation of the Northern AMU so it will again include Pituffik Space Base.

6. Guidance Revisions. FS has revised AC 91-70 as well as inspector guidance in Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 4, Part B Operations Specifications—En Route Authorization and Limitations, affecting the B040 authorization to add the italicized text as follows:

Change	Remarks
Northern AMU. The FAA designates the Northern AMU as the area within a 1,000 NM radius around the Magnetic North Pole, except for airspace over Alaska and its territorial waters. *In addition, the FAA designates the area north of 75° N latitude within the Nuuk (Greenland) flight information region (FIR) as part of the Northern AMU.* Finally, the Canadian AIP and Transport Canada's (TC) Designated Airspace Handbook establish the basic boundaries for the Canadian NDA, which the FAA additionally designates as part of the Northern AMU.	Previously, the Northern AMU did not include any reference to the 75° N latitude. The control area (CTA) for Pituffik Space Base, Greenland (formerly Thule Air Base) begins just north of 75° N.

7. Action. Principal Operations Inspectors (POI) should inform affected operators within 12 months of the effective date of this notice.

8. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the Flight Technologies and Procedures Division (AFS-400) at 202-267-8790.



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