NOTICE

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

N JO 7110.622

Effective Date:
June 16, 2013

Cancellation Date:
June 16, 2014

SUBJ: Handling Weather Deviations into Active Special Use Airspace

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides guidance to facilities regarding the handling of aircraft weather deviations into active Special Use Airspace. The information contained in this notice reflects existing guidance contained in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control.

2. Audience. This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service unit: En Route and Oceanic and System Operations.

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. Explanation of Policy Change. This notice clarifies guidance applicable to aircraft deviations for weather into active Special Use Airspace (SUA).

5. Cancellation. This notice replaces N JO 7110.580, Handling Weather Deviations into Active Special Use Airspace, effective June 15, 2012.

6. Guidance. Order JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, provides that unless clearance of nonparticipating aircraft in/through/adjacent to an active SUA is provided for in a Letter of Agreement or Letter of Procedure, any clearance issued to a nonparticipating aircraft must ensure separation from that SUA by the appropriate minima specified in Chapter 9, Section 3.

a. If the pilot of the nonparticipating aircraft exercises their discretion to deviate from that clearance, and the track of the aircraft will not maintain the required minima from SUA, controllers must ascertain if the pilot is exercising emergency authority:

(1) If so, provide assistance and obtain information as provided in Chapter 10.

(2) If not, provide appropriate pilot deviation notification as specified in Paragraph 2-1-26.

b. Additionally, the controller must attempt the following:

(1) Handoff the aircraft to the Using Agency and transfer communications; or

(2) Point out the aircraft to the Using Agency. The controller must:

(a) Continue to provide safety alerts and traffic advisories, as appropriate, to the affected aircraft.

(b) Continue to coordinate with the Using Agency until the situation is resolved.

(c) Assist the aircraft in exiting the SUA.

c. If the handoff or point out is unsuccessful, the controller must:

(1) If able, advise the Using Agency of the pilot's actions.

(2) Provide safety alerts and traffic advisories, as appropriate.

(3) Assist the aircraft in exiting the SUA as quickly as the weather allows.

(4) Continue to coordinate with the Using Agency until the situation is resolved.

Note—Use of Code 7700 for aircraft deviations into active SUA is not encouraged particularly in situations involving multiple aircraft. Positive identification of aircraft may be lost if an aircraft deviates from flight plan track particularly in the event of a momentary loss of radar or other interruption in tracking.

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

8. Background. This notice contains the procedures listed in the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Air Traffic Safety Action Program (ATSAP) Corrective Action Request (CAR) 2010-040, Special Use Airspace (SUA) and Weather Deviations.

9. Safety Management System. The information contained in this notice clarifies existing guidance in JO Order 7110.65. No new requirements or changes to requirements result from this notice. Accordingly, this notice does not introduce any new safety risk into the NAS.

Heather Hemdal
Director, En Route and Oceanic
Operations Support,
ATO Traffic Organization

6/6/13
Date Signed