

# NOTICE

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

N JO 7110.689

**Effective Date:**  
July 13, 2015

**Cancellation Date:**  
December 10, 2015

**SUBJ:** Expanding the use of 3nm separation in the En Route environment up to FL230

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** The purpose of this notice is to prescribe guidance for expanding the use of 3nm separation in the en route environment from below FL180 up to and including FL230.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support, and System Operations; and all associated en route air traffic control facilities.
- 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/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the air traffic publications Web site at [http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/).
- 4. Background.** As a result of safety and analysis studies using analytical approximations, simulations, and flight tests comparing flight characteristics of targets between 13,000 ft. and FL180 to targets between FL180 and FL230, it was determined that the increased probability of the loss of separation between FL180 and FL230 was negligible as compared to similar events in the airspace below FL180.
- 5. Explanation of Change.** This change allows the expanded use of 3nm separation from below FL 180 up to and including FL230 when meeting the conditions specified in paragraph 5-5-4.
- 6. Cancellation.** This notice self-cancels upon publication of this procedure in FAA JO 7110.65W on December 10, 2015.
- 7. Procedures.**
  - a. Amend paragraph 5-5-4, MINIMA to read as follows:

**5-5-4 MINIMA**

Title thru c.3.(c).

(d) Below FL 180

**5-5-4 MINIMA**


No Change

(d) Up to and including FL 230.

No further changes to paragraph

**7. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: En Route and Systems Operations Services; the Office of ATO Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; and the William J. Hughes Technical Center.

**8. Safety Management System.** The provisions of this notice are based on the Expansion of 3nm Separation In the En Route Domain Safety Risk Management Document (SRMD), Version 1.2 dated August 19, 2014. This SRMD supports the procedural guidance contained in this notice.

  
Heather Hemdal  
Director, Air Traffic Procedures  
Mission Support Services

6-2-15  
Date Signed