

NOTICE

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

N JO 7110.774

Effective Date:
April 20, 2020

Cancellation Date:
July 16, 2020

SUBJ: Operational Priority for MEDEVAC Flights

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice amends FAA Order JO 7110.65Y, Air Traffic Control, by revising Paragraph 2-1-4, Operational Priority, by clarifying use of the term MEDEVAC.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations Services, Safety and Technical Training, and all associated air traffic facilities.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the air traffic publications website at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.
- 4. Cancellation.** This notice is canceled upon publication of FAA Order JO 7110.65Y, Change 2, effective July 16, 2020.
- 5. Explanation of Policy Change.** This change to subparagraph 2-1-4.b clarifies use of the term “MEDEVAC” when used in radio transmissions and eliminates the reference to “MEDEVAC” as a call sign. The paragraph is re-formatted in bullet form to improve organization and clarity. The original NOTE is deleted and incorporated into the paragraph. Also, two new NOTES are added that provide clarity for the use of MEDEVAC, AIR EVAC and HOSP in flight plans. In addition, a reference is added for FAA Order JO 7110.65, paragraph 2-4-20, Aircraft Identification.
- 6. Procedures/Action.** Amend FAA Order JO 7110.65Y by changing paragraph 2-1-4 to read as follows:

2-1-4. OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

Title through 2-1-4.a.

No change

b. Treat air ambulance flights as follows:

1. Provide priority handling to civil air ambulance flights when the pilot, in radio transmissions, verbally identifies the flight by stating “MEDEVAC” followed by the FAA authorized call sign or the full civil registration letters/numbers. Good judgment must be used in each situation to facilitate the most expeditious movement of a MEDEVAC aircraft.

NOTE–

If a flight plan includes the letter “L” for “MEDEVAC” and/or includes “MEDEVAC” in either item 11 (Remarks) of the flight plan or Item 18 (Other Information) of an international flight plan, the entries are considered informational in nature only and not an identification for operational priority.

REFERENCE–

FAA Order JO 7110.65, Para 2-4-20, Aircraft Identification.

2. Provide priority handling to AIR EVAC and HOSP flights when verbally requested by the pilot.

NOTE–

If a flight plan includes “HOSP” or “AIR EVAC” in either Item 11 (Remarks) or Item 18 (Other Information) of an international flight plan, the entries are considered informational in nature only and not an identification for operational priority. For aircraft identification in radio transmissions, civilian pilots will use normal call signs when filing “HOSP” and military pilots will use the “EVAC” call sign.

3. Assist the pilots of MEDEVAC, AIR EVAC, and HOSP aircraft to avoid areas of significant weather and adverse conditions.

4. If requested by a pilot, provide additional assistance (i.e., landline notifications) to expedite ground handling of patients, vital organs, or urgently needed medical materials.

7. Distribution. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, and System Operations, and Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

8. Background. Pilots of “MEDEVAC” flights have expressed a general uncertainty on the proper procedures for being afforded priority handling on MEDEVAC missions. After research of FAA Orders and Publications, inconsistencies were identified with use of the term “MEDEVAC.” This has prompted clarification that will be helpful for pilots, as well as, air traffic control (ATC).

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