

# NOTICE

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

N JO 7210.911

**Effective Date:**  
June 18, 2018

**Cancellation Date:**  
February 28, 2019

**SUBJ:** Visual Separation

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice:** This notice adds the requirements for tower-applied visual separation for adjacent airport traffic control towers (ATCTs) as a new paragraph to FAA Order JO 7210.3.
- 2. Audience:** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units and facilities: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations Security, and all associated terminal air traffic control facilities.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the air traffic publications website at [http://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/).
- 4. Explanation of Change:** This change adds a new paragraph to FAA Order JO 7210.3 regarding special provisions, conditions, and limitations from each of the approved tower-applied visual separation waivers.
- 5. Procedures:**

## 10-3-9. VISUAL SEPARATION

Air traffic managers at adjacent ATCTs who wish to conduct tower-applied visual separation are required to complete the following:

**a.** Prepare a facility directive at each facility and enter into an LOA between the concerned facilities. At a minimum, the LOA must include:

1. Required equipment to conduct the operation.
2. Clear definition of the specific runway configurations and flows for the operation.
3. Ceiling and visibility requirements.
4. Missed approach instructions, where applicable.
5. A requirement that the aircraft type and intentions be made known to all controllers providing visual separation under these procedures.

**6.** Procedures for OS/CIC personnel to:

**(a)** Accomplish coordination between all concerned facilities prior to conducting and upon termination of the specified operation.

**(b)** Assess the operation during equipment failures.

- (c) Terminate the operation when not permitted due to weather conditions.
- b. Ensure that all personnel receive initial, and when appropriate, recurrent/annual refresher training.
- c. Document the operation in a Letter to Airmen and publish it in the Special Notices Section of the Chart Supplement.
- d. Submit an operational needs request along with an update adding tower-applied visual separation procedures to their facility directives. These documents must be approved by the appropriate Air Traffic Services Service Area Director prior to implementation.
- e. ATMs must maintain a copy of the approval correspondence.

*REFERENCE –  
 FAA Order JO 7110.65, Para 7-2-1, Visual Separation.  
 FAA Order JO 7210.3, Para 4-3-2, Appropriate Subjects.*

Paragraphs 10-3-9 through 10-3-15                      Renumber as 10-3-10 through 10-3-16

**6. Background.** Since 2003, several facilities in the National Airspace System have filed for a waiver to FAA Order JO 7110.65, Paragraph 7-2-1, Visual Separation, in order to enable air traffic controllers to apply visual separation between their traffic and traffic at an adjacent ATCT. This change allows the use of tower-applied visual separation between adjacent ATCTs.

Seven facilities have received waivers authorizing the use of tower-applied visual separation between adjacent ATCTs. There are three additional waivers pending. Since the issuance of these waivers, there have been no reported events, such as losses of approved separation, associated with the use of tower-applied visual separation.

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

Original signed by *Natking Estevez* for

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 Air Traffic Organization

6/7/18

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Date Signed