ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

7110.113B

7/10/00

SUBJ: **PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING AUTOMATED CLEARANCES**

1. PURPOSE. This order prescribes procedures for issuing departure clearances using the predeparture clearance (PDC) function of the Tower Data Link System (TDLS) automated data link between airport traffic control towers (ATCT) and authorized users.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the branch level in Washington headquarters and regional Air Traffic offices and to all ATCT's.

3. CANCELLATION. Order 7110.113A, Procedures for Issuing Automated Clearances, dated January 19, 2000, is cancelled.

4. EXPLANATION OF CHANGES. This order corrects a typographical error in Order 7110.113A.

5. BACKGROUND. The PDC/TDLS automated system has been developed employing a data link between the ATCT Flight Data Input/Output System and specially equipped aircraft or User Flight Planning Computer System. The data is presented to the clearance delivery (CD) position on a terminal display in the form of a tabular list and flight plan display area. CD may append the flight plan by including approved information before relaying the clearance. The resulting departure clearance is then transmitted to the participant network computer via a data communication transfer. The PDC process virtually eliminates the need for verbal communications with participating aircraft and reduces the amount of frequency congestion, especially during peak traffic periods.

6. PROCEDURES.

a. The air traffic manager (ATM) shall establish a local facility directive for transmitting clearances via the PDC/TDLS system. Flight plans with amendments or revisions shall not be sent via the PDC system. The directive shall encompass local procedures and responsibilities for processing PDC flight plans and include the following:

(1) Procedures to review proposed clearances received via the ATCT PDC/TDLS terminal for accuracy and route integrity.

(2) Procedures for initial altitude restrictions, departure control frequencies, standard instrument departures, or other required control information to be included in the PDC transmission.

(a) If the initial altitude to be flown is different from the published departure procedure (DP) altitude, the initial altitude to be flown shall not be included in the PDC message free text, but verbally issued by ATC. If there is no published departure procedure, an initial altitude to be flown may be included by using option field 1.

(b) Option field 2 will be used for assignment of appropriate departure control frequency.

(c) Initial heading to be flown shall not be included in free text format.

(3) Instructions for transmitting a routing via PDC, which includes a preferential departure route (PDR) and/or preferential departure and arrival route (PDAR), using option key 3. Do not transmit a flight plan that includes a PDR/PDAR via the PDC system if the PDR/PDAR does not connect with the filed route of flight.

(4) Procedures to ensure that any controller-generated free text, using option keys 4-6, shall contain no ATC instructions. Any authorized free text information should be clearly understood by the pilot.

(5) The position responsible for issuing a revised or amended clearance.

(6) A site administrator, designated by the ATM, shall be responsible to configure the system and maintain the site configuration data. The ATM shall develop procedures for the appropriate mode of operation and capability for data storage and retrieval.

(7) The capability of a removable storage and retrieval media is required for post accident and incident investigations. The site administrator shall ensure PDC archive history pertaining to an accident/incident is removed, certified, and stored for evidence. The site administrator shall print the required data for certification and retention unless otherwise notified to retain the original disk. Retention of data shall be in compliance with Order 7210.3, Facility Operations and Administration, Chapter 3, Facility Equipment, Section 4, Recorders.

(8) Procedures that ensure Airway Facilities (AAF) personnel are notified when an outage/problem occurs with the system. Notify ARINC via the 1-800 telephone number provided when unable to contact an AAF technician. All system problems/failures shall be recorded in accordance with established procedures. PDC system outages are not required for National Airspace Performance Reporting System reporting.

(9) The Automated Terminal Information Service shall include the phrase "predeparture clearance available" in the optional information section for a period of 60 days following PDC commissioning.

b. A letter to airmen outlining the services being provided with the PDC automation data link will be issued.. The letter to airmen shall direct applicants who request to participate to contact:

Federal Aviation Administration
Aeronautical Data Link Product Lead, AND-370
800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

7. COORDINATION. All matters pertaining to PDC/TDLS of systemwide interest, including facility notification of new participants, shall be coordinated through the regional Air Traffic Division to the headquarters Air Traffic PDC/TDLS coordinator in the Terminal Procedures Branch, ATP-120.

Jeff Griffith
Program Director
for Air Traffic Planning and Procedures