

ORDER

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

7230.8A

3/11/77

SUBJ: LIMITED AVIATION WEATHER REPORTING STATION (LAWRS)

1. PURPOSE. This order states policies and procedures for the establishment of the LAWRS program at federally-owned Airport Traffic Control Towers and Combined Station Towers (CS/Ts).
2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to Air Traffic, Airway Facilities, and Flight Standards Branches and above in Washington and Section level in the Regions; Systems Research and Development branches in Washington; FAA Academy, Air Traffic Systems Division at NAFEC; all Airport Traffic Control Towers, CS/Ts, Air Traffic Washington and Regional Liaison Officers and RAPCONs, RATCFs, and TRACONs.
3. CANCELLATION. Order 7230.8, dated 6/11/68; Limited Aviation Weather Reporting Station (LAWRS).
4. BACKGROUND.
 - a. At many locations served by FAA Towers and CS/Ts, aviation weather observations may not be available from another Government facility or Government approved facility, and at such locations it may be advantageous to have towers and CS/Ts make aviation weather observations (wind speed and direction, cloud height, temperature, dew point, etc.). This service shall be identified as LAWRS.
 - b. The LAWRS designation identifies the environment and limitations of the observing site, observers and resulting observations. LAWRS indicate an additional service provided from a control tower or CS/T and must not be construed as changing other classifications or designations of such facilities.
5. POLICY.
 - a. When a National Weather Service (NWS) Aviation Weather Observing Staff is stationed at an airport, the NWS will be responsible for observational programs. At part time NWS/FAA facilities, the FAA may jointly share this responsibility if mutually agreed. At facilities staffed by FAA, but not by NWS, the FAA will be responsible for aviation observational functions.

Distribution:

WAT/RD/AF/FS-3; R AT/AF/FS-4; NTS-2; CAY-3
FAT-2,3,8 (normal); FAT-4, 7 (minimum)

Initiated By: AAT-40

- b. Regional offices will establish LAWRS service on a 24-hour or a part time basis to satisfy the control zone weather reporting requirement wherever towers or CS/Ts are in operation and local aviation weather observations are not available from another Government facility or Government approved facility on the airport.

6. EQUIPMENT.

- a. Towers will not commence LAWRS functions until the facility is equipped with a ceilometer or cloud height indicator. This requirement can be temporarily satisfied by ceiling lights and balloons until the appropriate equipment is obtained. A hygrothermometer is required whenever a terminal forecast is made for that location.
- b. The remote readout indicators for the cloud height measurement system and the hygrothermometers shall be installed in the tower cab.

7. PROCEDURES.

- a. LAWRS duties shall be restricted to those that can be performed within the tower cab. All personnel making aviation observations shall be properly certified by the NWS.
- b. Air traffic control functions shall take priority over LAWRS duties; however, aviation observations shall be taken as consistently and uniformly as conditions will permit.
- c. The NWS may authorize ceiling or cloud height measurements by a certified cooperative observer, e.g., airline or airport employees, who will forward cloud information to the control tower for inclusion in the total weather report.
- d. The observing, reporting and classifying of weather elements shall be in accordance with the Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 9, Aviation Weather Observations (LAWRS/SAWRS), and Chapter 5, Section 5, of Handbook 7110.65.
- e. Recordkeeping shall be restricted to recording the observations on one form as specified by the NWS. This form shall be forwarded to the office designated by the NWS at such times as they request.
- f. When aviation observations require Service A Distribution, Towers and CS/Ts shall relay the report to an adjacent FSS for entry on Service A, or shall forward the report to the tie-in FSS.
- g. At those Tower and CS/T locations where a Semi-Automatic Meteorological Observation Station (SAMOS) is installed, personnel shall provide certain weather elements (cloud amount, prevailing visibility, weather, and obstruction to vision) to supplement the SAMOS observation, providing the requirements do not exceed the responsibilities and criteria stated herein for the establishment and operation of a LAWRS.

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8. MAINTENANCE, INSTALLATION AND SUPPLY SUPPORT. Unless otherwise agreed to, observational equipment used exclusively for aviation observations will be procured, installed, operated, maintained, and supply supported by the FAA. Observational equipment such as the sling psychrometer and rain gage, serving multiple NWS/FAA purposes will be procured, installed, maintained and supply supported by the NWS. To the maximum extent possible, each agency should avail itself of the facilities offered by the other, nonreimbursable where appropriate, in contracting for, installing, maintaining, and supply supporting observational equipment.


J. W. Cochran
Acting Administrator

