

ORDER

U. S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

SO 8260.3B

SOUTHERN REGION

12/03/01

SUBJ: FLIGHT STANDARDS ACTIONS CONCERNING AERONAUTICAL STUDY

- * 1. PURPOSE. This Order provides instructions to all Flight Standards Offices concerning action to be taken on circularized aeronautical study proposals.
2. DISTRIBUTION. This Order is distributed to branch level in Air Traffic, Airway Facilities, Flight Standards, Airports Divisions, all Flight Standards District Offices, Atlanta and Battle Creek Flight Inspection Area Offices and Airports District Offices at the standard level.
3. CANCELLATION. Order SO 8260.3A, Flight Standards Actions Concerning Aeronautical Study, dated 1/13/83, is canceled.
4. RESPONSIBILITIES. Many aeronautical study proposals will affect minimum en route altitudes, instrument approach procedures, IFR departure procedures, or have an adverse effect on operations peculiar to general aviation and/or air carrier operations such as hazards to VFR flight. If appropriate, aeronautical objections should be stated, explaining how an aeronautical procedure or operation will be adversely affected. Comments should be presented in writing to All Weather Operations (AWO), ESO-31. Extreme care must be exercised to assure that any objection is based on facts and can be supported if necessary in public hearings.
- a. Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and Flight Inspection Area Office (FIAO). Aeronautical studies circularized by the Southern Region Air Traffic Division, Airspace Branch, ASO-520, will be reviewed. Comments will be forwarded by field offices so as to reach All Weather Operations (AWO ESO-31) at least 5 days prior to closing date for comments.
- (1) Heliport – FAA Form 7480-1- Notice of Landing Area Proposal - Evaluate as per FAA Order 8700.1, Vol. 2, Chapter 61 and AC 150/5390-2. Heliports with associated instrument approaches may have additional required inspection items. Contact the AWO for additional guidance.
- (2) Public Airports – FAA Form 7480-1 – Evaluate the safety aspects of the proposal from the perspective of a transient or student pilot that may be operating from that location. Forward recommendations to AWO.
- (3) Private Airports and Seaplane Bases – FAA Form 7480-1 – As time permits, evaluate from a safety perspective and forward comments to AWO.

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* (4) Airport Construction – FAA Form 7460-1 – Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration - As time permits, notify Airports District Office (ADO) or AWO of safety concerns for aircraft and personnel.

b. Flight Procedures Office – Provide technical assistance to Air Traffic Airspace Branch and to the district offices as they request it and assist in resolving controversial airspace cases. Formulate a consolidated Flight Standards position on comments received from district offices. Represent the Flight Standards Division at informal airspace meetings called by ASO-520 or Airports District Office (ADO).

5. PROCEDURES. When a proposed construction exceeds the obstruction standards of Subpart C of Part 77 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace, it is identified as a proposed “obstruction” and is circularized as an “Aeronautical Study” to all interested persons for review and comment. It should be understood that in order to be determined to be a “hazard”, an object must be proved to have “Substantial Adverse Effect.” In order to have substantial adverse effect, the object must have “adverse effect” upon a “significant volume” of aeronautical operations which cannot or should not be changed to accommodate the object. A determination of Hazard or Non-Hazard is issued by ASO-520 following the aeronautical study. (Reference: Handbook 7400.2, Chapter 7.)

a. Flight Standards Offices should determine during the aeronautical study whether a VFR operation (as defined in Handbook 7400.2, Chapter 6) should be required to change from regular flight course or altitude, excluding agricultural spraying operations. (FSDO and AWO responsibility.)

b. The district offices should:

(1) Comment as to the number of VFR flight operations, which would be affected. (Number of IFR operations is obtained by ASO-531 from Air Traffic statistics.)

(2) Comment as to whether the affected VFR operations can or should be changed to accommodate the object.

(3) Comment as to whether the object may or may not adversely affect aeronautical operations whether it should be obstruction marked and lighted in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-1, or whether it is located with respect to other permanent tall structures or natural terrain features so as not to increase the potential hazard to aircraft. (Reference: Handbook 7400.2, Chapter 6.)

(4) Recommend as to where the proposed object might be relocated at its planned height, or at what maximum height above mean sea level it may be constructed at its planned location in order not to adversely affect VFR aeronautical operations.

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* c. "Airspace Determinations" which are issued by ASO-530 following the aeronautical study involves the recommendation and/or position of several interested divisions, and valid aeronautical comments from the public. In discussing airspace proposals with sponsors or interested persons, caution should be exercised with respect to field evaluations of airspace proposals and personal opinions. Sponsor obligations under existing Federal grant agreements may not be in harmony with these informal assessments. The results of the field aeronautical study shall be referred to AWO for consolidation of the Flight Standards position, which will be forwarded to the appropriate Regional Airspace Specialist (ASO-520). Queries concerning final determinations may be referred to ASO-520.

d. District Offices should be prepared to assist prospective proponents/sponsors in obtaining applicable advisory circulars and required forms used for filing notice of proposed construction to the FAA as follows:

(1) Proposed construction or alteration of objects that may affect the navigable airspace requires filing of FAA Form 7460-1 by the sponsor with ASO-520. FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-2 provides information to those filing.

(2) Construction proposals on Airport Improvement Proposals (AIP), Federal Airport Aid Program (FAAP), or obligated airports require sponsor notification to the applicable Airports District Office pursuant to FAR Part 152.

(3) Proposed construction, alteration, activation and deactivation of airports, heliports, or seaplane bases under FAR Part 157 require filing of FAA Form 7480-1 by the sponsor with the applicable Airports District Office. FAA Advisory Circular 70-2 provides information.

e. A narrative written reply to AWO is acceptable.

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