



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
Southwest Region

**ORDER  
SW 1050.3B**

July 30, 2007

**SUBJ:** Coordination of Noise Compatibility Plans and Programs and Environmental Documents

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**1. Purpose of This Order.** This order describes regional procedures for receiving and coordinating noise abatement programs, proposed airport use restrictions under 14 CFR Part 161, Airport Noise and Access Restrictions, submittals of Noise Exposure Maps (NEM) and Noise Compatibility Programs (NCP) under 14 CFR Part 150, Airport Noise Compatibility Planning, and interdivisional environmental documents prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The order merges two Regional groups, the Noise and Environment Policy Panel and the Regional Environmental Network (REN) into one body. The new body will retain the organizational identity of the REN. In addition to the functions of the REN described in FAA Order 1054.1, Environmental Network, the REN will function as the review panel for all subject programs, plans, and documents. This Order also outlines the responsibilities of members in the review of said programs, plans, and documents. Finally, this Order outlines regional policy to guide formulation of an official position for an airport use restriction, noise program, or environmental determination.

**2. Audience.** This order is for all employees and managers involved in the review and/or preparation of environmental document or noise studies for actions located within the Southwest Region. This order is specifically for those located at the branch level in the Central Service Area Air Traffic Organization; Flight Standards, Airports, Logistics, Human Resources, Medical, and Security and Hazardous Materials Divisions; Regional Counsel; Civil Rights and Fort Worth Flight Procedures Offices; Executive Operations Manager; Rotorcraft Directorate; and all field facilities and offices in the Southwest Region.

**3. Where Can I Find This Order.** You can find this order on the Directives Management System (DMS) website: [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/).

**4. Effective date.** July 30, 2007.

**5. Cancellation.** Order SW 1050.3A, Coordination of Noise Abatement Plans and Programs and Environmental Documents, dated April 8, 1999, is cancelled.

**6. Background.**

**a. Environmental Issues.** Environmental awareness and commensurate expectations among the public has increased in recent decades, resulting in the passage of various laws by Congress to protect our nation's natural resources as well as the public's health and quality of life. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has met those expectations through full compliance with the various laws implementing regulations. Tools used to ensure agency compliance include internal directives such as FAA Order 1050.1, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, and Order 5050.4, National

## 11. Responsibilities.

**a. All regional headquarters division, staff and field office managers** shall be familiar with general aspects of national and regional policies on noise and environmental issues and the regional coordination process.

**b. Regional Counsel (ASW-7).** A Regional Counsel representative shall serve in an advisory capacity to the REN and shall, as resources allow, review proposed actions subject to this order for comments on consistency with applicable laws, regulations, and court decisions.

**c. Civil Rights Office (ASW-9).** The Civil Rights Office may be called upon to provide guidance and review comments for actions subject to this order when civil rights, disadvantage business enterprises, or environmental justice issues may be involved. The Lead Office shall invite their comments, including requesting their participation on the REN when such guidance is needed to provide an appropriate coordinated regional response.

**d. Executive Operations Manager (ASW-30).** This person shall serve on the REN as the Regional Administrator's representative and shall provide technical or policy guidance relevant to current or anticipated Regional programs that would be impacted by actions subject to this order.

**e. Logistics Division (ASW-50).** A representative of the Logistics Division shall serve on the REN and review all proposed actions subject to this order that require the transfer, sale or lease of Federal properties. A representative shall also assist in reviewing and advising on reimbursable agreement contractual matters when the subject of the agreement deals with environmental issues.

**f. Rotorcraft Directorate (ASW-100).** The Rotorcraft Directorate may be called upon to provide guidance and review comments for actions subject to this order when rotorcraft certification, engine retrofit and rotorcraft performance impacts may be involved. The Lead Office shall invite their comments, including requesting their participation on the REN when such technical guidance is needed to provide an appropriate coordinated regional response.

**g. Flight Standards Division (ASW-200).** A representative of the Flight Standards Division shall serve on the REN and review all proposed actions subject to this order for impacts on flight safety. This review will include feasibility and safety of proposed new or revised operating procedures and other impacts related to their divisional responsibilities.

**h. Aviation Medical Division (ASW-300).** A representative of the Aviation Medical Division may be called upon to provide guidance and review comments for actions subject to this order when public or employee health issues are raised. The Lead Office shall invite their comments, including requesting their participation on the REN when such guidance is needed to provide an appropriate coordinated regional response.

**i. Airports Division (ASW-600).** A representative of the Airports Division shall serve on the REN as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall conduct all REN meetings and prepare subsequent reports. The representative shall also review all proposed actions subject to this order for impacts on the existing and planned development of airports. The Airports Division shall be responsible for

interdivisional issues with the appropriate offices, establish deadlines for comments, consolidate the regional response, and coordinate with Washington headquarters as necessary. The Lead Office shall assure that all applicable regulatory deadlines are complied with and that all notices are placed in the Federal Register.

**13. Line Of Business (LOB) Coordination and Response.** The members of the REN have the responsibility for coordinating pending actions subject to this order within their respective LOB, including coordination with field offices. Additionally, they will formulate LOB comments and recommendations. LOB comments and recommendations should be submitted to the Lead Office within 30 days of receipt of the request for review of the pending action. Before submittal of these comments or recommendations to the Lead Office for inclusion in the consolidated response, the comments or recommendations must have the concurrence of each LOB's management, unless the authority to make divisional comments or recommendations has been delegated to the LOB's REN representative.

**14. Official Regional Response.** Upon receipt of input through the process stated herein, the Lead Office shall take appropriate action. Interoffice projects requiring an environmental Finding of No Significant Impact and/or Record of Decision will be formally coordinated by the Lead Office with each line of business for appropriate action as described in Orders 1050.1 and 5050.4.

**15. Major Policy Guidance.** The following provides information on legislation and source documents and presents general regional philosophy to guide review of proposed actions subject to this order. The following list is not comprehensive in nature.

**a. 14 CFR Part 36** establishes noise standards for type certification of new aircraft and production of new aircraft.

**b. 14 CFR Part 91** establishes a phased program of compliance with 14 CFR Part 36 standards for the existing and future fleet of aircraft.

**c. 14 CFR Part 150** establishes single systems for measuring noise at airports; determining exposure of individuals to airport noise; identifies land uses which are normally compatible with various levels of exposure to airport noise; and provides technical assistance to airport operators to prepare and execute appropriate noise compatibility planning and implementation programs.

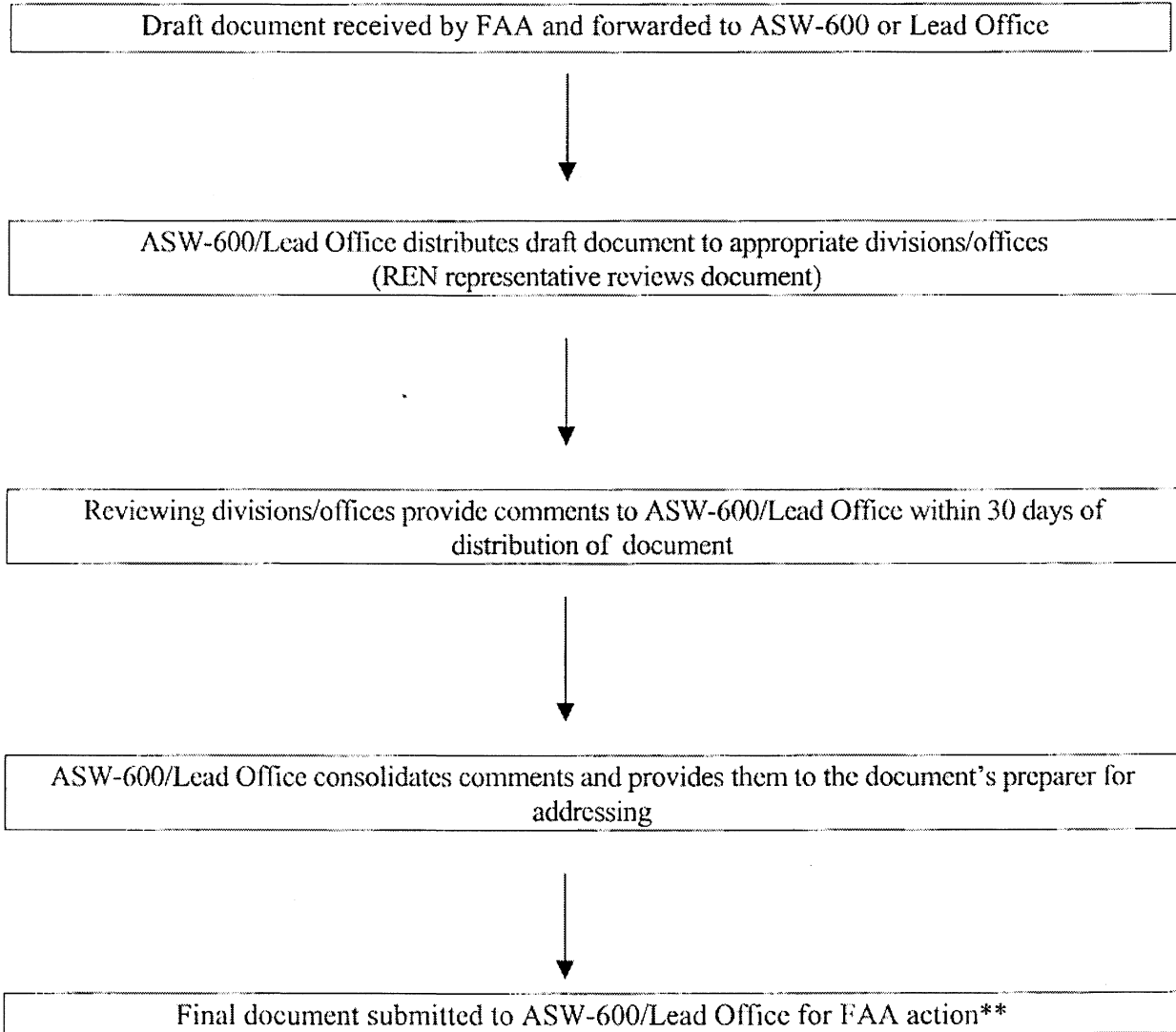
**d. 14 CFR Part 161** prescribes notice requirements and procedures for the approval and/or implementation of noise and access restrictions by airport operators.

**e. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.** The NEPA is the basic national charter for the protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy.

**f. Noise Control Act of 1972** established the primary responsibility for control of noise at the state and local level; however, Federal action was necessary to deal with noise at its source.

Appendix A

**GENERAL FLOW CHART**  
**FOR REVIEW OF ACTIONS**  
**SUBJECT TO ORDER SW 1050.3B**



\*\*If 14 CFR Part 150 or Part 161 action, or NEPA ROD not delegated to the Region, ASW-600/Lead Office will forward document to HQ for Agency decision

OR

\*\*If 14 CFR Part 150 or Part 161 action, or NEPA ROD has been delegated to the Region, ASW-600/Lead Office will coordinate a draft decision with appropriate offices and submit a final version to ASW-1 for signature.