

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
WESTERN-PACIFIC REGION

WP 8260.2C

5/3/94

SUBJ: CERTIFICATION/INSPECTION OF ALTIMETER SETTING SOURCES

1. PURPOSE: This order establishes guidance for certification, periodic inspections and assignment of responsibilities for the establishment of an altimeter setting source in accordance with Advisory Circular 91-14D, Altimeter Setting Sources, or subsequent revisions.
2. DISTRIBUTION: This order is distributed to the branch level in the Flight Standards, Airports, Air Traffic and Airway Facilities Divisions, and to all Flight Standards Field Offices (FSDO).
3. CANCELLATION: Order WP 8260.2B dated March 11, 1982 is canceled.
4. BACKGROUND: FAA Handbook 8260.3B, United States Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPs), paragraph 323b, establishes authority and limitations on use of remote altimeter setting sources to determine adjustments to minimum descent altitudes/decision heights authorized on Instrument Approach Procedures (IAP).
5. RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - a. The Flight Procedures Branch, AWP-220 is the Flight Standards focal point on matters pertaining to the requirement for an altimeter setting source for authorization of an IAP or continuing an existing authorization when conditions may change. The Branch will inform airport sponsors when an altimeter source is required and furnish them a copy of the current Advisory Circular concerning the establishment of an altimeter source. AWP-220 will keep the appropriate FSDO informed of locations required to maintain an altimeter source so they will be prepared to provide assistance if requested.

Upon notification by the airport sponsor of an altimeter source installation, AWP-220 will request the responsible FSDO to inspect the equipment installation.

b. The responsible FSDO will conduct an original inspection/certification of the altimeter setting source in order to ensure initial and continued compliance with AC 91-14D or subsequent revision. Annual recertification will be accomplished each 12 months and when requested by the airport sponsor or AWP-220.

Following inspection of the applicant's altimeter setting source, the FSDO inspector will input the inspection data into the Program Tracking and Reporting System (PTRS) national database. The inspection data should indicate approval or disapproval. Include a brief description of the facility; i.e., location, height above MSL, serial numbers of the altimeters and date of calibration. If disapproved, state the reason(s) and/or required corrective action. In addition to the foregoing, on initial inspections, advise the Regional Flight Procedures Branch, AWP-220, of the result of the inspection.

The original and subsequent inspections will be performed to determine compliance with the Advisory Circular.

6. GUIDELINES: The following criteria have been extracted from AC 91-14D. They are for the guidance of FSDO personnel in determining the suitability of an applicant's altimeter setting source. The applicant should be encouraged to meet the following standards; however, the minimum requirements of AC 91-14D, or subsequent revisions, are the basis for approval or denial of an applicant's facility.

The applicant should provide suitable:

a. Equipment

(1) Two aircraft type sensitive altimeters which meet the system test and inspections required by FAR Part 43 Appendix E, and/or TSO-C10b.

(2) Altimeters must have been calibrated within the last 30 days by an FAA approved instrument rated repair station.

(3) Altimeters should be mounted in a box or rack to preclude damage from mishandling and to ensure a reasonably permanent location. The box or rack should be vented to the room atmosphere unless paragraph 6b(3) is a consideration.

b. Location

(1) The location must be a known height above mean sea level (+/- 1 ft.). Height may be determined and certified by a surveyor. Some building blueprints contain this information and may be used if available. Field elevation is not acceptable because of the many variables involved. The altimeter elevation above MSL should be posted at the location.

(2) The location should be maintained at a reasonably constant temperature and be free from drafts to avoid possible altimeter errors; i.e., away from heaters, air conditioners, etc.

(3) If the altimeters are located in a room heated or cooled by forced air systems, the effect of these systems upon the altimeters should be evaluated. If an error in excess of 10 feet is induced by the use of these forced air systems, an outside vent (static source) will be required.

c. Procedures

(1) A brief, written procedure detailing the use of the altimeter setting source should be readily available to persons operating this equipment.

(2) A logbook containing a daily record of the difference between the two altimeters shall be maintained by the applicant.

d. Calibration

Altimeters should be recertified by an FAA approved instrument rated repair station each 24 months or when the difference between the two instruments exceeds .05 on the barometric pressure scale.



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