

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N JO 7210.644

Air Traffic Organization Policy

Effective Date:
February 1, 2007

Cancellation Date:
February 27, 2007

SUBJ: Air Traffic Quality Assurance

- 1. PURPOSE.** This Notice extends the Performance Tolerance on Final Approach (PTFA) evaluation that commenced February 2006 at six TRACONs.
- 2. DISTRIBUTION.** This Notice is distributed to all Washington headquarters, regions, and Air Traffic Organization offices including all air traffic field facilities.
- 3. ACTION.** Facility managers and safety assurance personnel will ensure that all provisions of this Notice are implemented concurrently with the cancellation of Performance Tolerance on Final Approach (PTFA) evaluation (next paragraph), at the following terminal radar approach control (TRACON) facilities: Charlotte (CLT), Chicago (C90), Dallas-Fort Worth (D10), Miami (MIA), New York (N90), & Southern California (SCT).
- 4. CANCELLATION.** This Notice extends the Performance Tolerance on Final Approach (PTFA) evaluation that commenced February 2006 at six TRACONs only until the implementation of N JO 7210.645, Change to FAA Order 7210.56C, Operational Errors Severity and Proximity Events, dated 02/26/07.
- 5. DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY.** This Notice is available on the Directives Management Information System (DMIS) at <http://dmis.faa.gov>. Requirements and responsibilities contained in this order will be included in revisions to FAA Order 7210.56, Air Traffic Quality Assurance.
- 6. BACKGROUND.** An evaluation of Performance Tolerance on Final Approach (PTFA) during 2006 that commenced February 2006 at six TRACONs is continuing. The ATO has used this evaluation to better understand airborne separation to see if a tolerance envelope can be effectively applied to all separation minima under certain conditions. N JO 7210.645, Change to FAA Order 7210.56C, Operational Errors Severity and Proximity Events, dated 02/26/07 requires all facilities to suspend the PTFA evaluation by 02/26/07.
- 7. PERFORMANCE TOLERANCE ON FINAL APPROACH.**
 - a.** Safety Services, with the approval of Air Traffic Safety Oversight Services (AOV), and support of Terminal Services (AJT), commenced a special evaluation of aircraft separation at selected facilities beginning on February 13, 2006. This special evaluation involves automated sampling of surveillance data and analysis that is transparent and non-intrusive to the affected facilities and controllers/managers on duty.

Distribution: Electronic

Initiated By: AJS-0
Vice President, Safety Services

b. Quality assurance personnel will adhere to all aspects of FAA Order 7210.56 and FAA Order 7110.65 (Air Traffic Control) during the special evaluation with the following exception: For arrival aircraft within 20 NM of runway threshold, and established on the final approach course, and meeting the 3 NM separation requirements, horizontal separation may decrease to 2.7 NM. When the conditions listed in this paragraph are satisfied and horizontal separation decreases below 3.0 NM but remains at or above 2.7 NM, no operational error report is required.

c. Personnel will continue to conduct QARs for all reports of TCAS resolution advisories (RA), near midair collisions (NMAC), and other incidents, and retain data to support the investigative process of FAA Order 7210.56 (paragraph 5-1-5). Facilities will be notified at the end of the special evaluation if additional reviews/reports are required for aircraft that meet criteria listed in paragraph 7. b. (above) of this Notice.



Lyle A. Mello
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Air Traffic Organization