

## DOCUMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL/BRIEFING SHEET

### FINAL DISPOSITION

**ORDER/PUBLICATION:** 7210.3X

**CHANGE:** Basic

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 9, 2012 **TRACKING #:** 3B- 17-4-6

**SPECIALIST/ROUTING:** Rudolph Lawrence AJV-11 (202) 267-8408

#### **1. PARAGRAPH NUMBER AND TITLE:**

17-4-6. VOLCANIC ASH

**2. BACKGROUND:** The National Weather Service is responsible for providing meteorological data to stakeholders of the National Airspace System (NAS). This includes the dissemination of observations, forecasts, and warning messages that pertain to volcanic ash that may potentially impact aircraft operations. The FAA is responsible for issuing NOTAMS on the status of a known volcanic eruption. The Anchorage and Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAAC) are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. VAAC meteorologists are tasked with monitoring remote sensing data, PIREPs, and reports from the Volcano Observatory and aviation community on a continuous basis. The VAACs are also tasked with creating ash dispersion models, determining current and forecast areas of airborne ash concentrations, determining the extent of the ash clouds, producing a volcanic ash advisory (VAA) as well as a volcanic ash advisory in graphical format (VAG) for its customers. The Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) in Anchorage, Honolulu, and Kansas City are responsible for issuing the volcanic ash Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET) within United States controlled airspace.

**3. EXPLANATION OF CHANGE:** This change provides guidance for establishing lines of communication to verify and disseminate timely and accurate information during and after a volcanic eruption. This guidance is not all inclusive; it establishes a baseline for preparedness and mitigation activities that must be accomplished to prevent a catastrophic event. This change cancels and incorporates N JO 7210.785, Volcanic Ash, effective September 16, 2011.

#### **4. CHANGE:**

##### OLD

Add

Add

Add

Add

Add

Add

##### NEW

#### **17-4-6. VOLCANIC ASH**

**a. Upon receipt of a validated report of volcanic activity and/or ash cloud movement, the ARTCC TMU whose geographic area of responsibility is impacted by such activity must:**

**1. Assess areas of potential or actual ash cloud location.**

**2. Notify the ATCSCC and the other facilities in their area of jurisdiction that may be affected. Provide as much information as possible, including PIREPS and other pertinent information that has been received.**

**b. Upon receipt of a Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA), Volcanic Ash SIGMET, or ARTCC notification, the ATCSCC must:**

**1. Retransmit the VAA received from the Washington or Anchorage VAACs to air traffic control facilities and stakeholders via a numbered ATCSCC advisory. The VAA will also be displayed on the ATCSCC web site in**

the advisories database.

Add

2. Conduct, as needed, conference calls to assess constraints and TMIs associated with the volcanic ash.

Add

NOTE-

The FAA does not have the capability to predict or depict volcano eruptions or ash cloud density and movements. It is not the responsibility of the FAA to provide separation between aircraft and volcanic activity or ash clouds.

No further changes to paragraph.

5. INDEX CHANGES: None

6. REFERENCE CHANGES: None

7. GRAPHICS: None

8. GENOT/NOTICE: N JO 7210.785, Volcanic Ash, effective September 16, 2011

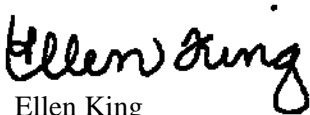
9. FORMATTING & PLAIN LANGUAGE REVIEW: ☒ HM 5/19/2011

10. SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT: (Check appropriate box).

☐ SRMD. Proposed change meets full SMS requirements for safety risk assessment.

☒ SRMDM. Proposed change does not introduce new safety risks into the NAS.

11. ICAO DIFFERENCES: YES ☐ NO ☒



Ellen King  
Acting Director, System Operations

6/17/11

Date: