



**U.S. Department
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Federal Aviation
Administration**

InFO

Information for Operators

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http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info

An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements, with relatively low urgency or impact on safety. The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Subject: Requirement for Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Operation Specifications (OpSpec)/Management Specification (MSpec)/ Letter of Authorization (LOA).

Purpose: This InFO provides information to operators of U.S. registered aircraft when they need an OpSpec, MSpec or LOA to operate in RVSM Airspace outside the United States in accordance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91, Appendix G and § 91.706.

Background: Currently all foreign civil aviation authorities (CAA) require operators to hold specific RVSM approval prior to conducting RVSM operations in their airspace. U.S. registered operators per Part 91 Appendix G, § 91.703, § 91.706 and ICAO Annex 6, parts I and II, must have an RVSM OpSpec/MSpec/LOA B046 – Operations in RVSM Airspace, or LOA D098 – Short Term Operations in Airspace Requiring Specific Approval, when operating in airspace designated as RVSM outside of the United States.

Discussion: International Civil Aviation Organization Annex 6, “Operation of Aircraft Part I – International Commercial Air Transport – Aeroplanes and Part II – International General Aviation - Aeroplanes,” requires States to issue a “specific approval” for RVSM operations.

When operating outside the U.S. (outside of 12 nautical miles from the national airspace, including Canada and Mexico), operators may file the RVSM equipment code “W” in their Air Traffic Control (ATC) flight plan (Item 10 – Equipment in the International Flight Plan) if approved for RVSM per §91.706 Appendix G to part 91 when holding a valid OpSpec/MSpec/LOA B046 or LOA D098. This should be filed when intending to conduct RVSM and operating under the provisions of the specific approval. Operators conducting RVSM operations under the provisions of Appendix G, Section 9, that do not hold a valid RVSM OpSpec, MSpec or LOA B046 or LOA D098 are not eligible to include code “W” indicating RVSM authorization, in their ATC flight plan and Item 10 – Equipment in the International Flight Plan outside the U.S.

Guidance for obtaining an OpSpec/MSpec/LOA B046 can be found in Advisory Circular 91-85B - Authorization of Aircraft and Operators for Flight in Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Airspace.

NOTE: Effective 28 January 2021, the FAA amended LOA D098 Short-Term Operations in Airspace Requiring Specific Approval to facilitate the authorization of short-term RVSM operations, e.g. ferry, sales demonstration, test and evaluation flights, etc. See FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 6.

Recommended Action: Pilots, operators, aircrew training, Director of Operations (DO), and Directors of Safety (DoS) should familiarize themselves with the information contained in this InFO and ensure that they are aware of the need for an OpSpec, MSpec or LOA to operate in RVSM Airspace *outside* the United States.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this InFO should be directed to Flight Technologies and Procedures Division e-mail: 9-AWA-AFS400-COORD@faa.gov.