

Instrument Procedures Handbook

2015

U.S. Department of Transportation
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
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Preface

This handbook supersedes FAA-H-8261-16, Instrument Procedures Handbook, dated 2014. It is designed as a technical reference for all pilots who operate under instrument flight rules (IFR) in the National Airspace System (NAS). It expands and updates information contained in the FAA-H-8083-15B, Instrument Flying Handbook, and introduces advanced information for IFR operations. Instrument flight instructors, instrument pilots, and instrument students will also find this handbook a valuable resource since it is used as a reference for the Airline Transport Pilot and Instrument Knowledge Tests and for the Practical Test Standards. It also provides detailed coverage of instrument charts and procedures including IFR takeoff, departure, en route, arrival, approach, and landing. Safety information covering relevant subjects such as runway incursion, land and hold short operations, controlled flight into terrain, and human factors issues also are included.

This handbook conforms to pilot training and certification concepts established by the FAA. The discussion and explanations reflect the most commonly used instrument procedures. Occasionally, the word “must” or similar language is used where the desired action is deemed critical. The use of such language is not intended to add to, interpret, or relieve pilots of their responsibility imposed by Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR).

It is essential for persons using this handbook to also become familiar with and apply the pertinent parts of 14 CFR and the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM). The CFR, AIM, this handbook, AC 00-2.15, Advisory Circular Checklist, which transmits the current status of FAA advisory circulars, and other FAA technical references are available via the internet at the FAA Home Page <http://www.faa.gov>. Information regarding the purchase of FAA subscription aeronautical navigation products, such as charts, Airport/Facility Directory, and other publications can be accessed at <http://faacharts.faa.gov>.

This handbook is available for download, in PDF format, from the FAA’s Regulations and Policies website at:

http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/instrument_procedures_handbook/

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Comments regarding this publication should be sent, in email form, to the following address: 9-AMC-AFS420-IPH@faa.gov



for John S. Duncan
Director, Flight Standards Service

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Notice

The United States Government does not endorse products or manufacturers. Trade or manufacturers' names appear herein solely because they are considered essential to the objective of this handbook.

Summary of Changes

This handbook supersedes FAA-H-8083-16, Instrument Procedures Handbook dated 2014, and contains substantial changes, updates, and reorganization. It must be thoroughly reviewed.

Chapter 1

- This Chapter contains updated information and reorganization of important concepts and principles related to obstacle avoidance and departure planning. The presentation retains the same logical order as earlier versions, and includes updated graphics for clarity.
- The section related to Surface Movement Guidance and Control System contains significant revisions to better reflect advancements in the way the system operates, as well as the Advisory Circulars published related to the subject.
- The section related to Diverse Vector Areas (DVAs) contains significant revision reflecting policy changes.
- Several subject matter areas and graphics discussed in this Chapter contain changes made in order to better align with updates and changes made to the Airman's Information Manual (AIM).
- Various editorial and graphics issues were addressed revised as appropriate.

Chapter 2

- This Chapter contains various updates to Sectors and Altitudes, as well as various editorial changes throughout.
- Several graphics were updated or changed as appropriate.

Chapter 3

- This Chapter was updated with various editorial and graphics changes as appropriate.

Chapter 4

- This Chapter contains a significant number of changes and updates specific to the subject of Approaches:
- Changed internet references related to on-line flight planning and filing.
- Updated verbiage and information regarding Vertical Descent Angles (VDAs) and Visual Descent Points (VDPs).
- Revised verbiage and illustration related to GLS approaches and associated minimums.

- Added discussion regarding alerting functions that are part of the Performance-Based Navigation concept and associated systems.
- Addressed changes to RNP approach naming convention issues.
- Hot and cold weather altimetry limitations and their associated FAA-directed procedure implementation changes were addressed and discussed.
- New information related to Terminal Arrival Areas (TAAs) was presented and discussed. This information now aligns with advances in the subject matter presented in the AIM.
- Several updates were made regarding RNAV and GPS-based approaches in general, under several sub-sections. Associated graphics and illustrations updated.
- Multiple changes were made to the section discussing ILS and parallel ILS approaches.
- Several editorial and graphics issues were addressed as appropriate. While significant information was updated for this version, there are multiple policy changes pending that will be further changed or discussed in subsequent versions of this Handbook. .

Chapter 5

- This Chapter contains several editorial and graphics updates as deemed appropriate (fixed browser links, etc).

Chapter 6

- This Chapter contains several editorial and graphics updates as deemed appropriate (fixed browser links, etc).

Chapter 7

- This Chapter remains “Helicopter Instrument Procedures” and contains updated illustrations and graphics pertinent to information discussed within the Chapter.

Appendices

- The Appendices in remain intact in this version. There are information and policy changes pending that, due to time constraints, will be addressed in subsequent versions of this Handbook

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