



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

# Memorandum

**Subject:** **ACTION:** Interim Guidance for Evaluating Area  
Navigation (RNAV) Holding Patterns

**Date:** JUN 1 2004

**From:** Manager, Flight Technologies and Procedures  
Division, AFS-400

**Reply to  
Attn. of:**

**To:** Program Director, Aviation System Standards,  
AVN-1

**PURPOSE:** This memorandum establishes interim guidance for evaluation of RNAV holding patterns.

**BACKGROUND:** Representative of the aviation industry expressed concerns regarding containment sufficiency of the RNAV holding patterns described in FAA Order 7130.3A, Holding Pattern Criteria, chapter 2, A Flight Procedure Standards Branch, AFS-420, limited mathematical analysis concluded the holding pattern dimensions may be inadequate in some entry leg scenarios with crosswind conditions that result in excessive wind drift while dead reckoning.

**POLICY:** Develop holding patterns for all RNAV procedures and perform biennial reviews using FAA Order 7130.3A, chapter 2, Conventional Holding Criteria. Use pattern sizes listed in Table 2 and Table 3 of the RNAV-Navigational Aid Distance column for 15-29.9 nautical miles. For Helicopter RNAV procedures, use pattern template size #4.

Please direct all questions concerning this policy to Don Pate, AFS-420, (405) 954-4164.

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**cc:**  
AFS-400 (sus: 20041588-0)  
AFS-405/410/420/430/440

