



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

Memorandum

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

Date: JUN 17 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 6. 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 on original RNAV procedures and perform biennial reviews using FAA Order 7130.3A, chapter 2, Conventional Holding Criteria. Use pattern sizes listed in Table 2 under the Fix-to-Navigational Aid Distance column for 15-29.9 nautical miles. For helicopter RNAV procedures, use pattern template size #4.

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

Original Signed By:


John W. McGraw

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