



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: JUN 29 2017

To: Elizabeth L. Ray, Vice President, Mission Support Services, AJV-0

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

Subject: Guidance for Application of Vertical Guidance Surface (VGS) Criteria

This memorandum provides policy guidance for application of Order 8260.3, paragraph 2-6-6, to straight-in aligned non-precision (NPA) instrument approach procedures, effective 1 October 2017.

The Flight Technology and Procedures Division conducted an analysis of the impact of applying VGS criteria on the current approach inventory. The results indicate there are approximately 540 runway ends that can be considered for addition of vertically-guided approach capabilities. An effort should be made to add this capability to these runways as soon as practical.

Analysis of the remaining approaches found VGS surface penetrations that could result in a wide range of impact, varying from the need for a modification of the procedure such as an increase of the vertical descent angle (VDA), to loss of one or more approach categories. In some cases, penetrations of the VGS may result in loss of the entire approach.

In an effort to determine if the VGS, as defined, unduly impacts currently published instrument approach procedures, we are conducting additional risk analysis. Our goal is to complete this analysis by October 2017 and publish any subsequent required changes to Order 8260.3 in the first quarter of calendar year 2018.

Due to our ongoing effort to refine the VGS and more accurately represent the risk, we are authorizing a waiver to paragraph 2-6-6 to defer the required 1 October 2017 implementation of the VGS for NPA approaches. This waiver remains in effect until rescinded. We will provide the list of those NPA approaches identified in our impact analysis as candidates for vertically-guided approach capabilities and offer our assistance to help establish a prioritization plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas J. Nichols, Manager, Flight Procedure Standards Branch, AFS-420, at (405) 954-4164.

cc: John Dermody, Director, Office of Airports Safety and Standards, AAS-001
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