

**AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM**  
**Instrument Procedures Group**  
**Meeting 15-01 – April 28, 2015**

**RECOMMENDATION DOCUMENT**

**FAA Control # 15-01-319**

**Subject:** Removal of the Epoch Year documentation on 8260-series FAA Forms

**Background/Discussion:** Historically, magnetic variation values and epoch year have been documented together on 8260-series instrument flight procedure FAA Forms.

Aeronautical Information Services documents and retains records indicating the magnetic variation and the epoch year value that was used during procedure development.

At times the epoch year documentation has generated questions from various users as to the older dates listed on the forms. In many locations, magnetic variation does not change and may be within tolerances over numerous years, regardless of the epoch calculation model. For example: A published epoch year value of 1965 may still be within tolerance using a 2020 World Magnetic Model (WMM).

Discussion has not identified any current user requirements for the epoch year information.

The National Flight Data Digest (NFDD) will begin to publish both the magnetic variation value and the epoch year which makes the information available to all charting agencies.

**Recommendations:** Open to ACF discussion to determine if there is any objection to FAA directives being changed to support this request to remove Epoch year from 8260-series FAA Forms.

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**Date:** 3 April 2015

**Initial Discussion – MEETING 15-01:** Tom Schneider, AFS-420, briefed item submitted by Aeronautical Information Services (AIS) at request of AFS-420 to remove epoch year value associated with magnetic variation (MV) depicted on the applicable 8260-series Form. There is a concern that an older (but correct) epoch year on a procedure form may imply procedure has not been reviewed since that date specified on the form. Tom posed a question to database providers/manufacturers/users regarding need/use of actual epoch year date value on procedure forms. Ted Thompson, Jeppesen, advised Jeppesen determined there is value of epoch year as a reference, but would support removal from the 8260-forms provided the date is readily available thru NASR or appropriate airport/NAVAID record. He added that epoch year data would then not be duplicated since revisions may not occur at same time. Kevin Bridges, AIR-131, said if epoch year values are taken off 8260-series forms, the FAA must ensure all

know where to access the information. Valerie Watson, AJV-553, advised epoch year information is not on airport 5010 form. Martin Zillig, Lido, said they prefer epoch year remain on 8260-series Forms, and added other states put the epoch year on procedure plates. Ted said Jeppesen does not. NGA said they need the date information available.

**Status:** Tom advised he will take this information back to AFS-420 and relay the importance of information availability. **Item Open: AFS-420**

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**MEETING 15-02:** Tom Schneider, AFS-420, briefed that at ACF15-01 the group decided to keep Epoch Year documentation. This information was brought back to the submitter and with their concurrence the agenda item is dropped.

**Status:** **Item Closed.**