

**GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM**  
**Instrument Procedures Group**  
**(Transcribed/Re-Formatted)**  
**HISTORY RECORD**

**FAA Control # 97-02-186**

**SUBJECT:** Circling-only SIAPs. Chart Descent Gradient to Touch down on Straight in Aligned

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:** There has been previous discussion in this forum about the lack of information to pilots about SIAPs that are aligned for straight-in landing, but which lack straight-in minimums because of excessive descent gradient. ALPA believes this is a critical safety-of-flight issue that is becoming more critical as more such SIAPs are being charted. Regardless of studies being conducted by the FAA on visual-segment criteria, this particular issue is simple to implement, and needs to be provided to pilots sooner rather than later.

**RECOMMENDATION:** All SIAPs with FAFs and final approach courses aligned within 30 degrees of a runway (or runways) shall have the descent gradient and descent angle to each such runway published. The descent gradient and angle shall be calculated from the FAF altitude to the TDZ elevation of the affected runway(s). If there is a final segment stepdown fix, then the calculation of gradient and angle will be from that point to the TDZ elevation, instead of from the FAF.

**COMMENT:** This proposal affects Orders 8260.3B, 8260.19C, the AIM, and various FAA instrument approach procedures directives to pilots.

Submitted by: Captain Tom Young, Chairman  
Charting and Instrument Procedures Committee  
AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION  
March 6, 1997

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**INITIAL DISCUSSION (MEETING 97-02):** Wally Roberts, ALPA led a discussion on the idea that there is a lack of pilot information about SIAPs that are aligned for straight-in landing, but do not indicate straight in minimums because of excessive descent gradient. ALPA believes the issue to be critical to safety-of-flight, and development of a method of disseminating information to pilots is essential. AFS-440 is to make a report at the next meeting. **Action:** Item Open. (AFS-440)

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**MEETING 98-01:** This issue is resolved in TERPS change 17. **Status:** Item Closed