The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify what constitutes the official government source documents for Instrument Flight Procedures (IFPs).

IFPs are documented on FAA Forms 8260-3, 8260-4, 8260-5, 8260-7A, 8260-10, 8260-15A/B/C/D, 8260-16, or 8260-17.1/17.2. The information detailed on these forms constitute the official government source for the applicable IFP type. This information includes routes, courses, radials, altitudes, angles, distances, minimums, notes, and textual instructions. Forms used for Area Navigation (RNAV) IFPs also contain information regarding whether the fixes used are fly-over (FO) or fly-by (FB), the leg type used to define the path to be flown (as defined in Order 8260.58) and final approach segment (FAS) data when applicable.

The government also produces data in an FAA-specific avionics database coding format. This data may be included on RNAV IFP forms and on some existing ground-based IFP forms. The database coding format must not be considered part of the official government source. Any consumer intending to use this data to chart, display or provide navigation guidance relating to any IFP must ensure their equipment complies with all information detailed on the FAA form(s) comprising the official government source. The consumer should translate the data format to ensure their equipment complies with the path defined by the textual description on the FAA form (re: AC 20-153 and RTCA/DO-200B, section 2.4.2).

Order 8260.19, Flight Procedures and Airspace, is currently under revision and some current guidance will be changed to be consistent with this memorandum.

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