



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

# Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Application of Short Take Off Landing  
(STOL) Holding Pattern Criteria

Date: DEC 6 2004

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

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: Program Director, Aviation Systems Standards,  
AVN-1

**PURPOSE:** This memorandum establishes interim guidance for design application of Helicopter/STOL holding patterns.

**BACKGROUND:** AFS-400 memorandum "Interim Guidance for Evaluating Area Navigation (RNAV) Holding Patterns", dated June 17, 2004 introduced a containment concern in RNAV holding pattern criteria contained in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 7130.3A, Holding Pattern Criteria. Effectively, the memo halted use of 7130.3A chapter six until further analysis and actions could be taken. This analysis introduced the same concern for application of chapter 5, Helicopter/STOL Holding Patterns using either RNAV or conventional navigational aids (NAVAIDS).

**POLICY:** Do not incorporate STOL holding patterns in instrument procedure design until further notice. Amend existing procedures containing STOL patterns with a conventional holding pattern under FAA Order 7130.3A, Holding Pattern Criteria, Chapter 2, when the procedure is routinely reviewed. For all helicopter holding procedures, use pattern template size #4.

If you have any questions, please contact Donald P. Pate, Manager, Flight Procedures Standards Branch, AFS-420, at (405) 954-4164.

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