



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

# InFO

Information for Operators

InFO 17015  
DATE: 11/2/17

Flight Standards Service  
Washington, DC

**[http://www.faa.gov/other\\_visit/aviation\\_industry/airline\\_operators/airline\\_safety/info](http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info)**

*An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety.*

**Subject:** Unauthorized use of Special Instrument Procedures

**Purpose:** This InFO serves to inform all instrument-rated pilots about requirements for conducting flight operations with Special (non-Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations [14 CFR] Part 97) Instrument Procedures. Special Instrument Procedures are those procedures developed for specific users and are not processed under part 97.

**Background:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circular 90-112A provides guidance for initiating, developing, processing, and managing Special Instrument Procedures. These procedures are specifically authorized by the FAA for use by both certificated and non-commercial operators. Historically, Special Instrument Procedures were developed for one of two reasons; either the procedure was intended for private use or the procedure required special conditions, equipment, limitations, training, etc. These procedures are not published in the Federal Register. Finally, Special Instrument Procedures are identified by a chart note(s) requiring specific authorization by the FAA Flight Standards Service. For additional information regarding Special Instrument Procedures, please refer to the FAA Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM) chapter 5, section 4, paragraph 8, Special Instrument Approach Procedures.

**Discussion:** Per 14 CFR Part 91 § 91.175, Flightcrews must not request nor accept an Air Traffic Control (ATC) clearance for a Special Instrument Procedure without specific FAA-Flight Standards authorization. Special Instrument Procedures appear like any other procedure and may be included in an operator's navigational database. Flightcrews have accepted ATC clearances and flown Special Instrument Procedures without specific FAA authorization and possession of a current, valid navigational chart. These actions introduce a potential adverse safety impact as operators may not have special training and required equipment to safely operate utilizing Special Instrument Procedures.

**Recommended Action:** Unless specifically authorized by FAA Operations Specifications or letter of authorization, flightcrews must not conduct flight operations with Special Instrument Procedures. In addition, flightcrews must not request nor accept an ATC clearance for a Special Instrument Procedure without specific FAA authorization and possession of a current, valid navigational chart.

**Contact:** Questions or comments regarding this InFO should be directed to Flight Procedure Implementation and Oversight Branch (AFS-460) at 405-954-9359 or by email to [9-amc-fsifp-oversight@faa.gov](mailto:9-amc-fsifp-oversight@faa.gov).