

Instrument Procedures Handbook

2015

U.S. Department of Transportation
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Flight Standards Service

Preface

This handbook supersedes FAA-H-8261-16, Instrument Procedures Handbook, dated 2014. It is designed as a technical reference for all pilots who operate under instrument flight rules (IFR) in the National Airspace System (NAS). It expands and updates information contained in the FAA-H-8083-15B, Instrument Flying Handbook, and introduces advanced information for IFR operations. Instrument flight instructors, instrument pilots, and instrument students will also find this handbook a valuable resource since it is used as a reference for the Airline Transport Pilot and Instrument Knowledge Tests and for the Practical Test Standards. It also provides detailed coverage of instrument charts and procedures including IFR takeoff, departure, en route, arrival, approach, and landing. Safety information covering relevant subjects such as runway incursion, land and hold short operations, controlled flight into terrain, and human factors issues also are included.

This handbook conforms to pilot training and certification concepts established by the FAA. The discussion and explanations reflect the most commonly used instrument procedures. Occasionally, the word “must” or similar language is used where the desired action is deemed critical. The use of such language is not intended to add to, interpret, or relieve pilots of their responsibility imposed by Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR).

It is essential for persons using this handbook to also become familiar with and apply the pertinent parts of 14 CFR and the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM). The CFR, AIM, this handbook, AC 00-2.15, Advisory Circular Checklist, which transmits the current status of FAA advisory circulars, and other FAA technical references are available via the internet at the FAA Home Page <http://www.faa.gov>. Information regarding the purchase of FAA subscription aeronautical navigation products, such as charts, Airport/Facility Directory, and other publications can be accessed at <http://faacharts.faa.gov>.

This handbook is available for download, in PDF format, from the FAA’s Regulations and Policies website at:

http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/instrument_procedures_handbook/

This handbook is published by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, Flight Procedures Standards Branch, AFS-420, 6500 S. MacArthur Blvd, Ste 104, Oklahoma City, OK 73169.

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09/21/2015

Acknowledgments

The following individuals and their organizations are gratefully acknowledged for their valuable contribution and commitment to the publication of this handbook:

FAA: Project Managers: Maj Brian Strack (USAF); Assistant Project Managers: Gilbert Baker, Dustin Davidson; Editor: Tara Savage; Technical Illustrator: Melissa Spears; Subject Matter Experts: Dean Alexander, John Bickerstaff, Barry Billmann, John Blair, John Bordy, Larry Buehler, Dan Burdette, Kel Christianson, Wes Combs, Jack Corman, Rick Dunham, Dave Eckles, Gary Harkness, Hooper Harris, Harry Hodges, John Holman, Bob Hlubin, Gerry Holtorf, Steve Jackson, Scott Jerdan, Alan Jones, Alex Krause, Norm Le Fevre, Bill McWhirter, Barry Miller, John Moore, T.J. Nichols, Jim Nixon, Dave Olsen, Jerel Pawley, Gary Petty, Gary Powell, Phil Prasse, Jeff Rawdon, Mark Reisweber, Christopher Rice, Dave Reuter, Jim Rose, Jim Seabright, Eric Secretan, Ralph Sexton, Tom Schneider, Lou Volchansky, Dan Wacker, and Mike Webb.

The Instrument Procedures Handbook was produced by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with the assistance of Safety Research Corporation of America (SRCA).

The FAA also wishes to acknowledge the following contributors:

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (www.aopa.org) for images used in chapter 5.

Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (www.volpe.dot.gov) for images used in chapter 5.

Gary and Cecil Tweets at ASAP, Inc. (www.asapinc.net) for images used in chapter 1.

The staff of the U.S. Air Force Flight Standards Agency and Advanced Instrument School (HQ AFFSA/AIS) for various inputs.

Additional appreciation is extended to the Airman Certification System Working Group for its technical recommendations, support, and inputs.

Notice

The United States Government does not endorse products or manufacturers. Trade or manufacturers' names appear herein solely because they are considered essential to the objective of this handbook.

Summary of Changes

This handbook supersedes FAA-H-8083-16, Instrument Procedures Handbook dated 2014, and contains substantial changes, updates, and reorganization. It must be thoroughly reviewed.

Chapter 1

- This Chapter contains updated information and reorganization of important concepts and principles related to obstacle avoidance and departure planning. The presentation retains the same logical order as earlier versions, and includes updated graphics for clarity.
- The section related to Surface Movement Guidance and Control System contains significant revisions to better reflect advancements in the way the system operates, as well as the Advisory Circulars published related to the subject.
- The section related to Diverse Vector Areas (DVAs) contains significant revision reflecting policy changes.
- Several subject matter areas and graphics discussed in this Chapter contain changes made in order to better align with updates and changes made to the Airman's Information Manual (AIM).
- Various editorial and graphics issues were addressed revised as appropriate.

Chapter 2

- This Chapter contains various updates to Sectors and Altitudes, as well as various editorial changes throughout.
- Several graphics were updated or changed as appropriate.

Chapter 3

- This Chapter was updated with various editorial and graphics changes as appropriate.

Chapter 4

- This Chapter contains a significant number of changes and updates specific to the subject of Approaches:
- Changed internet references related to on-line flight planning and filing.
- Updated verbiage and information regarding Vertical Descent Angles (VDAs) and Visual Descent Points (VDPs).
- Revised verbiage and illustration related to GLS approaches and associated minimums.

- Added discussion regarding alerting functions that are part of the Performance-Based Navigation concept and associated systems.
- Addressed changes to RNP approach naming convention issues.
- Hot and cold weather altimetry limitations and their associated FAA-directed procedure implementation changes were addressed and discussed.
- New information related to Terminal Arrival Areas (TAAs) was presented and discussed. This information now aligns with advances in the subject matter presented in the AIM.
- Several updates were made regarding RNAV and GPS-based approaches in general, under several sub-sections. Associated graphics and illustrations updated.
- Multiple changes were made to the section discussing ILS and parallel ILS approaches.
- Several editorial and graphics issues were addressed as appropriate. While significant information was updated for this version, there are multiple policy changes pending that will be further changed or discussed in subsequent versions of this Handbook. .

Chapter 5

- This Chapter contains several editorial and graphics updates as deemed appropriate (fixed browser links, etc).

Chapter 6

- This Chapter contains several editorial and graphics updates as deemed appropriate (fixed browser links, etc).

Chapter 7

- This Chapter remains “Helicopter Instrument Procedures” and contains updated illustrations and graphics pertinent to information discussed within the Chapter.

Appendices

- The Appendices in remain intact in this version. There are information and policy changes pending that, due to time constraints, will be addressed in subsequent versions of this Handbook

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