

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7110.489

Effective Date:
September 23, 2008

Cancellation Date:
December 1, 2008

SUBJ: Acknowledgement of Altitude Clearances and Altitude Read Back

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides new procedures for the acknowledgement/read back of altitude clearances as directed in Federal Aviation Administration Order (FAAO) 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, Paragraph 2-4-3, Pilot Acknowledgement/Read Back.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, and Safety Services.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** The notice is available on the MYFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the air traffic publications Web site at http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/air_traffic/publications.
- 4. Procedures.** Amend FAAO 7110.65, paragraph 2-4-3, as follows:

2-4-3. PILOT ACKNOWLEDGMENT/READ BACK

- a. When issuing clearances or instructions, ensure acknowledgment by the pilot.

NOTE-

Except as required by paragraph c below, pilots may acknowledge clearances, instructions, or other information by using "Wilco," "Roger," "Affirmative," or other words or remarks.

- b. If altitude, heading, or other items are read back by the pilot, ensure the read back is correct. If incorrect or incomplete, make corrections as appropriate.

- c. Except when issued in conjunction with an approach clearance, request a specific read back of all altitude clearances when not received from the pilot.

NOTE-

Because of the volume of phraseology already associated with approach clearances, specific read back of altitude clearances is not mandatory; however, to the extent traffic volume allows, it is still encouraged.

PHRASEOLOGY-

VERIFY ASSIGNED ALTITUDE
VERIFY ASSIGNED FLIGHT LEVEL

EXAMPLE-

"American Four Ninety Two, verify assigned altitude."

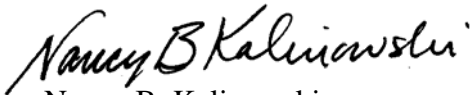
NOTE-

Failure to adhere to the additional requirements in this phraseology demonstration will not constitute an operational error if the other current provisions of subparagraphs 2-4-3a and b are properly applied. However, these additional

requirements are expected to improve operational performance. The failure to properly apply them should be addressed in accordance with applicable orders, policies, and agreements.

5. Distribution. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, Safety, and System Operations Services; service center offices; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center, and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

6. Background. Over the past several months, misunderstood altitude clearances have resulted in multiple losses of separation. These losses of separation have resulted from both pilot deviations and operational errors. Mistaken altitude clearances often leave little time for air traffic controllers to detect and correct altitudes before separation is lost. Concurrent with distribution of this notice, Aviation Safety will inform pilots of these new air traffic procedures to increase flightcrew awareness of the need to specifically acknowledge all altitude clearances.



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Air Traffic Organization

8-27-08

Date Signed