

NOTICE

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

N JO 7110.490

Effective Date:
October 1, 2008

Cancellation Date:
September 30, 2009

SUBJ: Interim Procedures for Airbus A380 Flights

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice transmits interim air traffic procedures applicable to Airbus A380 operations. The procedures contained in this notice supplement existing guidance contained in Federal Aviation Administration Order (FAAO) JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, and System Operations Services.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on 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.** Standard air traffic control procedures contained in FAAO 7110.65 and facility letters of agreement shall be applied in support of the A380 with the following additions/changes:

a. *EN ROUTE:*

1. Small/large/heavy behind an A380 – 5 miles
2. When transitioning to terminal airspace – provide a minimum of 10 miles spacing
3. Include the expression “*SUPER*” immediately after the aircraft call sign in communications with a terminal facility about A380 operations, and when issuing traffic advisories regarding an A380.
4. Visual separation rules specified in FAAO 7110.65, chapter 7, section 2, shall not be applied with respect to the A380.

b. *TERMINAL:*

1. Separate aircraft operating directly behind or directly behind and less than 1,000 feet below by:

NOTE-

Consider parallel runways less than 2,500 feet apart as a single runway because of the possible effects of wake turbulence.

- (a) Heavy behind A380 – 6 miles
- (b) Large behind A380 – 8 miles
- (c) Small behind A380 – 10 miles

(d) When applying wake turbulence separation criteria for terminal operations that are defined in minutes, add 1 additional minute.

2. Use the expression “*SUPER*” immediately after the aircraft call sign in all communications with or about an A380.

3. Visual separation rules specified in FAAO 7110.65, chapter 7, section 2, shall not be applied with respect to the A380.

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

6. Background. On October 9, 2006, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) issued guidance regarding the wake vortex aspects of A380 aircraft. The FAA Flight Standards Service has not yet issued final standards for the A380 pursuant to the October 9, 2006, ICAO guidance. Pending the issuance of such standards, ATO will continue to issue interim guidance to support the operation of the A380 in U.S.-controlled airspace.

Although a “J” indicator has been identified by ICAO in its October 9, 2006, guidance, the FAA has not rendered a final determination in support of such an indicator. Accordingly, existing flight data processing systems and records have not yet been modified to reflect a “J” indicator for the A380 on electronic flight lists or printed flight progress strips. Studies indicate that wake vortices generated by the A380 may be more substantial than those of aircraft in the “Heavy” wake turbulence category, thus requiring special designation (“Super”) and additional wake turbulence separation during certain segments of flight. The A380 may identify itself as *CALL SIGN “Super”* in radio communications with air traffic control.

7. Safety Management System. These procedures are based on guidance received from ICAO and the joint FAA/Eurocontrol Wake Turbulence Steering Group that studied the wake vortices of the A380 in 2006. Although ICAO recently has issued revised guidance regarding reduced wake separation criteria behind the A380, the ATO has not fully evaluated the revision. Accordingly, the separation standards and procedures contained in this notice are essentially unchanged from what was approved in Notice N JO 7110.478. Therefore, no further safety risk analysis is necessary.



Nancy B. Kalinowski
Vice President, System Operations Services
Air Traffic Organization

9-16-08

Date Signed