

NOTICE

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

N JO 7110.484

Effective Date:
May 1, 2008

Cancellation Date:
August 31, 2008

SUBJ: Acknowledgement of Altitude Clearances and Altitude Read Back

1. Purpose of This Notice. In an effort to reduce the sudden rise in operational errors and pilot deviations, this notice provides new procedures for the acknowledgement of altitude clearances and altitude read back 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/.

4. Procedures. Amend FAAO 7110.65, Paragraph 2-4-3, Pilot Acknowledgement/Read Back, as follows:

2-4-3. PILOT ACKNOWLEDGMENT/READ BACK

c. Request a specific read back of all altitude clearances or instructions when not received from the pilot.

TERMINAL - This requirement is encouraged but not mandatory when issuing approach clearances.

PHRASEOLOGY-

"READBACK ASSIGNED ALTITUDE"

EXAMPLE-

"American Four Ninety Two, Readback 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 2-4-3 a and b are properly applied. However, these additional requirements are expected to improve operational performance. 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 & Oceanic, Terminal, Safety, and System Operations Services; service center offices; Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center, and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

6. Background. During 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. The additions to the paragraph 2-4-3 are intended to demonstrate whether obtaining specific read back of altitude clearances will reduce the frequency of these serious mistakes.



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4-18-08

Date Signed