

NOTICE

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

N JO 7110.590

Effective Date:
July 20, 2012

Cancellation Date:
March 7, 2013

SUBJ: Visual Separation

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice amends Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order JO 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, Paragraph 7-2-1, Visual Separation, by redefining the requirements for applying visual separation procedures, and the associated phraseology, in the terminal environment. In addition, the requirement for aircraft to be under control of the same facility in the terminal area when applying visual separation is eliminated; control of aircraft maintaining visual separation may be transferred in accordance with letters of agreement or a facility directive.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the Terminal Services organization and all associated air traffic control facilities.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This 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/air_traffic/publications/.
- 4. Procedures.** Amend Paragraph 7-2-1, Visual Separation, to read as follows:

7-2-1. VISUAL SEPARATION

Title through REFERENCE, no change.

a. TERMINAL. Visual separation may be applied between aircraft up to but not including FL180 under the following conditions:

1. Tower-applied visual separation.

(a) Maintain communication with at least one of the aircraft involved or ensure there is an ability to communicate immediately as prescribed in paragraph 3-9-3, Departure Control Instructions, subparagraph a2.

(b) The tower visually observes the aircraft, issues timely traffic advisories, and maintains visual separation between the aircraft. The use of tower-applied visual separation is not authorized when wake turbulence separation is required.

(c) Issue subsequent control instructions as necessary to ensure continued separation between the applicable aircraft.

NOTE-

Adjacent airports with operating ATCTs are not authorized to apply visual separation between their traffic and the other ATCT's traffic.

2. Pilot-applied visual separation.

(a) Maintain communication with at least one of the aircraft involved and ensure there is an ability to communicate with the other aircraft.

(b) The pilot sees another aircraft and is instructed to maintain visual separation from the aircraft as follows:

- (1) Tell the pilot about the other aircraft. Include position, direction, and, unless it is obvious, the other aircraft's intention.
- (2) Obtain acknowledgment from the pilot that the other aircraft is in sight.
- (3) Instruct the pilot to maintain visual separation from that aircraft.

PHRASEOLOGY-

TRAFFIC, (clock position and distance), (direction) BOUND, (type of aircraft), (intentions and other relevant information).

DO YOU HAVE IT IN SIGHT?

If the answer is in the affirmative,

MAINTAIN VISUAL SEPARATION.

(c) If the pilot advises he/she has the traffic in sight and will maintain visual separation from it (the pilot must use that entire phrase), the controller need only “approve” the operation instead of restating the instructions.

PHRASEOLOGY-

APPROVED

NOTE-

Pilot-applied visual separation between aircraft is achieved when the controller has instructed the pilot to maintain visual separation and the pilot acknowledges or when the controller has approved pilot-initiated visual separation.

REFERENCE-

FAAO JO 7110.65, Para 5-4-5, Transferring Controller Handoff

(d) If the aircraft are on converging courses, inform the other aircraft of the traffic and that visual separation is being applied.

PHRASEOLOGY-

TRAFFIC, (clock position and distance), (direction) BOUND, (type of aircraft), HAS YOU IN SIGHT AND WILL MAINTAIN VISUAL SEPARATION.

(e) Advise the pilots if the radar targets appear likely to merge.

NOTE-

Issue this advisory in conjunction with the instruction to maintain visual separation, the advisory to the other aircraft of the converging course, or thereafter if the controller subsequently becomes aware that the targets are merging.

EXAMPLE-

“Radar targets appear likely to merge.”

b. TERMINAL. Control of aircraft maintaining visual separation may be transferred to an adjacent position/sector/facility. Coordination procedures must be specified in an LOA or facility directive.

REFERENCE-

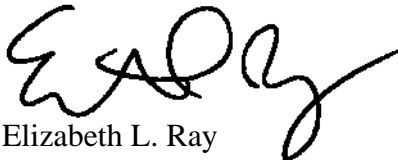
FAAO JO 7210.3, Para 4-3-1, Letters of Agreement

Subparagraphs b through c, re-letter c through d.

No further changes to paragraph

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

6. Background. The FAA ATO Terminal Operations and Procedures office formed a panel of subject matter experts to review and analyze the risk of implementing modifications to FAA Order JO 7110.65 requirements for the application of visual separation. The proposed changes were assessed in accordance with Safety Management System requirements.



Elizabeth L. Ray
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Air Traffic Organization

June 20, 2012

Date Signed