

NOTICE

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

N JO 7110.577

Effective Date:
March 7, 2012

Cancellation Date:
July 26, 2012

SUBJ: Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Glider Codes

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice assigns Code 1202 for use by gliders not in contact with an air traffic control (ATC) facility. The notice also provides general flight characteristics of gliders and some of their limitations. In addition, this notice adds Code 1202 to codes to be monitored within your area of responsibility when nonautomated beacon decoding equipment is used to display the target symbol.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: En Route and Oceanic, Terminal, and System Operations, including the Directors of Tactical Operations and traffic management officers; and the international aviation field offices.
- 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 paragraphs 5-2-9 and 5-2-13 to read as follows:

5-2-9. VFR CODE ASSIGNMENTS

Title through b PHRASEOLOGY, no change.

NOTE-

- 1. Aircraft not in contact with an ATC facility may squawk 1255 in lieu of 1200 while en route to/from or within the designated fire fighting area(s).*
- 2. VFR aircraft which fly authorized SAR missions for the USAF or USCG may be advised to squawk 1277 in lieu of 1200 while en route to/from or within the designated search area.*
- 3. Gliders not in contact with an ATC facility should squawk 1202 in lieu of 1200. Gliders operate under some flight and maneuvering limitations. They may go from essentially stationary targets while climbing and thermaling to moving targets very quickly. They can be expected to make radical changes in flight direction to find lift and cannot hold altitude in a response to an ATC request. Gliders may congregate together for short periods of time to climb together in thermals and may cruise together in loose formations while traveling between thermals.*

No further changes to paragraph.

5-2-13. CODE MONITOR

Continuously monitor the Mode 3/A radar beacon codes assigned for use by aircraft operating within your area of responsibility when nonautomated beacon decoding equipment (for example, 10-channel decoder) is used to display the target symbol.

REFERENCE, NOTE, and REFERENCE, no change.

- a.** This includes the appropriate IFR code actually assigned and, additionally, **Code 1200**, **Code 1202**, **Code 1255**, and **Code 1277** unless your area of responsibility includes only Class A airspace. During periods

when ring-around or excessive VFR target presentations derogate the separation of IFR traffic, the monitoring of VFR Code 1200, Code 1202, Code 1255, and Code 1277 may be temporarily discontinued.

No further changes to paragraph.

5. Distribution. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Terminal, En Route and Oceanic, Mission Support, and System Operations, to include traffic management units and flight service stations; 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. An accident, many incidents, and a National Transportation Safety Board recommendation highlight the need for a national beacon code for gliders that are operating VFR and not in contact with ATC. ATC personnel will be informed of the code, what it represents, and under what limitations the users are typically operating. Several codes have been considered in the past, but have conflicted with other operations. Code 1202 is now available and being offered for VFR gliders.



Elizabeth L. Ray
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Feb 2, 2012

Date Signed