Material Incorporated by Reference

(q) You must use Bombardier Task 284000–417 in Section 4–1, Fuel System Limitations, of Part 2—Airworthiness Limitation Items, Revision 5, dated April 21, 2010, of Bombardier Q400 Dash 8 Maintenance Requirements Manual, PSM 1–84–7, and the service information contained in Table 2 of this AD, as applicable, to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise. The revision level for Bombardier Task 284000–417 in Section 4–1, Fuel System Limitations, of Part 2—Airworthiness Limitation Items, Revision 5, dated April 21, 2010, of Bombardier Q400 Dash 8 Maintenance Requirements Manual, PSM 1–84–7, is specified only on the title page and page 1 of the record of Revisions of that document. Page 4 of Section 4–1, Fuel System Limitations, of Part 2—Airworthiness Limitation Items, Revision 5, dated April 21, 2010, of Bombardier Q400 Dash 8 Maintenance Requirements Manual, PSM 1–84–7, is not listed in the Table of Contents of that document.

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of this service information under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact Bombardier, Inc., 400 Côte-Vertu Road West, Dorval, Québec H4S 1Y9, Canada; telephone 514–855–5000; fax 514–855–7401; e-mail thd.gqries@aero.bombardier.com; Internet http://www.bombardier.com.

(3) You may review copies of the service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, Washington. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425–227–1221.

(4) You may also review copies of the service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 10, 2011.

Ali Bahrami,
Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–15364 Filed 6–24–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71


Establishment of Helicopter Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Northeast United States

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action establishes helicopter RNAV routes as part of the U.S. air traffic service route (ATS) structure and designates two helicopter RNAV routes (TK-routes) in the northeast corridor between the Washington, DC, and New York City metropolitan areas. The TK-routes are for use by helicopters having IFR-approved Global Positioning System (GPS)/Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) equipment. The FAA is taking this action to enhance safety and to improve the efficient use of the navigable airspace for en route IFR helicopter operations.

DATES: Effective date 0901 UTC, August 25, 2011. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.9 and publication of conforming amendments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Gallant, Airspace, Regulations and ATC Procedures Group, Office of Airspace Services, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

History

On Tuesday, March 8, 2011, the FAA published in the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish two helicopter RNAV routes in Northeast United States (76 FR 12643). Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking effort by submitting written comments on the proposal. Four people submitted comments on the proposal.

Discussion of Comments

Two commenters wrote expressing support for the proposal. Two commenters raised several issues which are discussed below. One commenter questioned the need for a new type of airway for helicopters stating that the existing system of VOR Federal airways and RNAV T-routes should be sufficient. The commenter wrote, in the past, the FAA had designated routes for helicopters in the northeast, but they were seldom available for use.

Additionally, the commenter asked if the air traffic control separation standards for IFR helicopters differ from those that apply to fixed-wing aircraft; contending that, if they are the same, there is no need for helicopter airways.

The past routes noted by the commenter were initiated in FAA Advisory Circular AC 73–2, “IFR Helicopter Operations in the Northeast Corridor,” dated June 11, 1979, AC 73–2 advised of special RNAV helicopter routes between Washington, DC, and Boston, MA. The routes were developed consistent with conventional traffic flows for use by helicopters under IFR conditions. Use of these routes was limited only to those operators that met specified criteria and were issued a letter of authorization from the FAA. Therefore, the routes were not available for general use and they were not depicted on IFR Enroute Low Altitude charts. The Advisory Circular was subsequently cancelled because the routes were designed for first generation RNAV systems which lacked the accuracy and reliability of satellite navigation and other advanced RNAV systems. Additionally, it was determined that the routes do not meet current Air Traffic Service route criteria. On March 26, 2007, the FAA issued a Letter to Airmen containing new routings to be filed with a “fix-to-fix” flight plan along the “old” IFR northeast corridor. As with the Advisory Circular routes, these routes are not depicted on IFR En route Low Altitude charts. The new TK routes in this rule approximate the former northeast corridor route.
tracks. In addition, the new TK routes are public routes that will be depicted on the IFR Enroute Low Altitude charts and available for use by suitably equipped helicopters.

Regarding IFR separation standards, there is no difference between IFR helicopters and IFR fixed wing aircraft. The question of establishing a new type of route for IFR helicopters was raised in response to user requests. In March 2006, the Helicopter Association International (HAI) requested that the FAA take action to develop and chart IFR RNAV airways for use by helicopters having IFR-approved GPS equipment. Of particular interest was the use of RNAV to assist IFR helicopter pilots transiting though busy terminal airspace areas while providing routes separate from fixed-wing traffic. This issue was studied by members of the Government/Industry Aeronautical Charting Forum (ACF), which is comprised of both FAA and Industry participants. The ACF supported the establishment of RNAV helicopter route, and concluded that a unique prefix should be used to identify these routes. Establishment of charted helicopter RNAV TK-routes will enhance safety and facilitate more flexible and efficient access to the NAS for IFR helicopter operations. In addition, the TK-routes will enable the designation of waypoints and feeder routes that would provide a connection between the NAS and instrument procedures serving helicopter landing/departure facilities. Among the potential benefits of these routes are more efficient and safer operations for helicopter emergency medical services flights.

One commenter asked if he could file a TK-route for a flight in a Cessna 150. The answer is no, due in part to the differing missions of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, TK-routes may start and end at locations inappropriate for fixed wing aircraft, such as in the vicinity of hospital or other helipad locations. Due to this difference TK-routes will not be designated specifically for helicopter use; therefore, only suitably equipped helicopters will be able to file for the routes.

A commenter asked about the expected usage of the routes and the altitudes flown. It is anticipated the average usage rate would be around 30 to 50 flights per month for those route segments between the Philadelphia and the New York City areas. Usage of the full route between New York and Washington, DC, is expected to be about five per month. Altitude use on the Washington, DC, is expected to be about full route between New York and northeast corridor between the New York City and Washington, DC, northeastern United States.

TK-routes may start and end at locations inappropriate for fixed wing aircraft, such as in the vicinity of hospital or other helipad locations. Among the potential benefits of these routes are more efficient and safer operations for helicopter emergency medical services flights.

The FAA has determined that this regulation: (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under Department of Commerce; (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority.

This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in subtitle VII, part A, subpart I, section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it designates new helicopter RNAV air traffic service routes to enhance the safe and efficient use of the NAS in the northeastern United States.

Environmental Review

The TK routes have been determined to be Categorically Excluded from further environmental review in accordance with paragraphs 311a of FAA Order 1050.1E and documented under the provisions outlined in paragraph 305 of that order. The estimated number of daily helicopter operations is low, with an estimate of less than 50 helicopter operations on the routes per month. Based on the low number of operations, no noise analysis was needed as per FAA Order 1050.1E. Other environmental impact categories were considered as well as the potential for extraordinary circumstances before reaching this environmental determination of CATEX. The Air Traffic Initial Environmental Review (IER) is not a mandatory document and was not required for this action. The FAA issued a Categorical Exclusion/Record of Decision dated June 14, 2011.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

Adoption of the Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:
§71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.9U, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, Dated August 18, 2010 and amended as follows:

Paragraph 6012  Helicopter Area Navigation Routes [New]

* * * * *

TK–502 Westminster (EMI), MD to DECKR, PA [New]

Westminster                      VORTAC (Lat. 39°29′42″ N., long. 76°58′43″ W.)
(EMI), MD
TAYLO, MD WP (Lat. 39°30′48″ N., long. 76°27′43″ W.)
WINGO, PA WP (Lat. 39°45′59″ N., long. 76°06′55″ W.)
SINON, PA WP (Lat. 40°02′14″ N., long. 75°34′46″ W.)
GRIBL, PA WP (Lat. 40°14′30″ N., long. 74°53′31″ W.)
TOLAN, NJ WP (Lat. 40°21′58″ N., long. 74°25′23″ W.)
BALDE, NJ WP (Lat. 40°28′42″ N., long. 74°11′33″ W.)
SPATE, NY WP (Lat. 40°31′22″ N., long. 74°07′31″ W.)
DECKR, NY WP (Lat. 40°30′07″ N., long. 74°02′42″ W.)

* * * * *

TK–504 RUSEY, MD to BANKA, NJ [New]

RUSEY, MD WP (Lat. 39°16′07″ N., long. 76°11′19″ W.)
CIDOB, MD WP (Lat. 39°25′47″ N., long. 75°58′43″ W.)
HAMOR, PA WP (Lat. 39°51′21″ N., long. 75°47′17″ W.)
ARCUM, PA WP (Lat. 40°01′26″ N., long. 75°20′54″ W.)
TULLY, PA WP (Lat. 40°10′38″ N., long. 74°51′48″ W.)
BORKE, NJ WP (Lat. 40°10′12″ N., long. 74°22′32″ W.)
BANKA, NJ WP (Lat. 40°22′53″ N., long. 74°05′04″ W.)

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 20, 2011.

Gary A. Norek,

Acting Manager, Airspace, Regulations and ATC Procedures Group.

[FR Doc. 2011–15885 Filed 6–24–11; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 97

[Docket No. 30789; Amdt. No. 3431]

Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule establishes, amends, suspends, or revokes Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (SIAPs) and associated Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures for operations at certain airports. These regulatory actions are needed because of the adoption of new or revised criteria, or because of changes occurring in the National Airspace System, such as the commissioning of new navigational facilities, adding new obstacles, or changing air traffic requirements. These changes are designed to provide safe and efficient use of the navigable airspace and to promote safe flight operations under instrument flight rules at the affected airports.

DATES: This rule is effective June 27, 2011. The compliance date for each SIAP, associated Takeoff Minimums, and ODP is specified in the amendatory provisions.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of June 27, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Availability of matter incorporated by reference in the amendment is as follows:

For Examination—
1. FAA Rules Docket, FAA Headquarters Building, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591;
2. The FAA Regional Office of the region in which the affected airport is located;
3. The National Flight Procedures Office, 6500 South MacArthur Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73169 or; and

Availability—All SIAPs are available online free of charge. Visit nfdc.faa.gov to register. Additionally, individual SIAP and Takeoff Minimums and ODP copies may be obtained from:

1. FAA Public Inquiry Center (APA–200), FAA Headquarters Building, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; or
2. The FAA Regional Office of the region in which the affected airport is located.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harry J. Hodges, Flight Procedure Standards Branch (AFS–420) Flight Technologies and Programs Division, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, 6500 South MacArthur Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73169 (Mail Address: P.O. Box 25082 Oklahoma City, OK 73125) telephone: (405) 954–4164.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule amends Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97 (14 CFR part 97) by amending the referenced SIAPs. The complete regulatory description of each SIAP is listed on the appropriate FAA Form 8260, as modified by the National Flight Data Center (FDC)/Permanent Notice to Airmen (P–NOTAM), and is incorporated by reference in the amendment under 5 U.S.C. 552(a), 1 CFR part 51, and §97.20 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The large number of SIAPs, their complex nature, and the need for a special format make their verbatim publication in the Federal Register expensive and impractical. Further, airmen do not use the regulatory text of the SIAPs, but refer to their graphic depiction on charts printed by publishers of aeronautical materials. Thus, the advantages of incorporation