

NEW Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Long-Term Monitoring Requirements

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards have required that all States responsible for airspace where Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) has been implemented, or have issued RVSM approvals to operators, shall establish provisions and procedures to monitor that airspace to ensure safe operations.

Assessments of system performance and ongoing monitoring of RVSM aircraft has resulted in the International Civil Aviation Organization proposing standards for the long term monitoring of RVSM airspace.

In conjunction with internationally agreed upon changes to ICAO Annex 6, *Operation of Aircraft, Parts I & II*, applicable on 18 November 2010, ICAO and the United States Federal Aviation Administration will adopt the following recommended practices in regards to long term monitoring of RVSM airspace:

The State of the Operator or State of Registry, as applicable, that has issued an RVSM approval shall establish a requirement which ensures that a minimum of two airplanes of each [RVSM] aircraft type grouping of the operator have their height-keeping performance monitored, at least once every two years or within intervals of 1,000 flight hours per airplane, whichever period is longer. If an operator aircraft type grouping consists of a single airplane, monitoring of that airplane shall be accomplished within the specified period.

Height-keeping performance of the aircraft is one of the key elements in ensuring the safe operations in RVSM airspace and these long-term RVSM monitoring standards are considered the minimum requirement needed to maintain the safety of operations in RVSM designated airspace.

This is an advance notice. The Federal Aviation Administration is developing policy to harmonize these standards. Information concerning the FAA implementation will be posted as it becomes available to the RVSM Webpage at:

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/enroute/rvsm/documentation/#req under the RVSM Documentation section titled: Monitoring Requirements / Procedures

For questions or concerns regarding the new changes, the following points of contacts for the FAA have been established below:

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