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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: DIAGRAMMATIC MAPS AND LOCATION SIGNS AT AIRPORTS

1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular informs airport authorities of the desirability to provide diagrammatic maps of facilities within terminal buildings and of the need for clearly marked location signs at airports, especially at those airports used by international travelers.
2. BACKGROUND. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) established the Panel on Airport Signs to examine the development of uniform airport signs at international airports. The panel has recommended that, in order for airports to better serve international travelers and facilitate movement of passengers within the terminal building, standard international signs should be developed to indicate the locations of various facilities and services such as telephones, information desks, restaurants, toilets, postal facilities, etc. ICAO is acting upon the panel's recommendation by arranging for a firm of consultants to prepare the appropriate location signs. Since the signs will not be available for use by the various international airport authorities for over a year, the Secretary General of ICAO requests international airport authorities to presently consider two other recommendations of the ICAO Panel on Airport Signs concerning:
 - a. The desirability of providing diagrammatic maps in suitable places in terminal buildings at international airports, indicating to passengers their present position in the terminal building and the location of necessary facilities.
 - b. The need for clear sign posting, indicating the location of public parking facilities (the signs to be placed inside, as well as outside, the terminal building) and gasoline pumps at international airports. Also there is a need for signs within the airport to be consistent with those on outside roads in order to avoid confusing drivers.

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3. APPLICATION. While the above recommendations are specifically directed to international airports, they merit the attention of all airport authorities. Where they have been made available, diagrammatic maps have already proved to be very valuable aids to travelers. With the growing complexity of airport terminal building layouts, these diagrammatic maps are very useful because they alert the traveler by providing conspicuous markings to the direction and location of major airport facilities in relation to his present location. The value of these maps at airports serving international passengers could be even further improved if the text consisted of both English and at least one of the other official ICAO languages (French, Spanish).

In addition to these diagrammatic maps, there is also a need to clearly indicate the location of parking facilities and automotive service or gas stations. Details on these and other road signs are contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. (This manual is not presently available for purchase but reference copies may be seen in the Washington or regional offices of the Federal Highway Administration or in state highway departments.) Included in this manual are standards for trail blazer type signs which are presently being used to mark the best route to a desired point (such as an airport). Typical of these trail blazer signs, which have an eye-catching design and coloring, is the following type sign, developed by the FAA, for use on the state roads near Dulles International Airport:



White legend on a
dark background

4. SUGGESTED PROCEDURES. It is suggested that airport authorities consider these ICAO recommendations and take steps to provide diagrammatic maps along with uniform directional and location signs wherever possible at their airport facilities.

5. HOW TO OBTAIN THIS PUBLICATION. Additional copies of this advisory circular, AC 150/5355-1, Diagrammatic Maps and Location Signs at Airports, may be obtained from the Department of Transportation, TAD-484.3, Washington, D.C. 20590.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chester G. Bowers".

Chester G. Bowers
Director, Airports Service