

Federal Aviation Agency



AC NO: 90-15
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AND GENERAL OPERATIONS
EFFECTIVE : 7/2/64

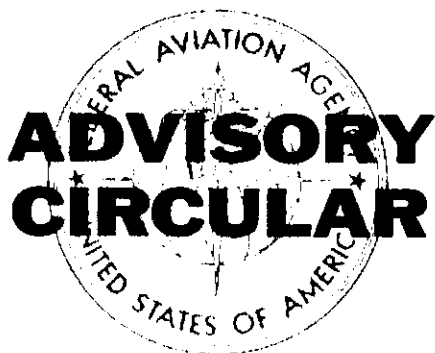
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SUBJECT : PILOTS' RESPONSE TO ATC CLEARANCES AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. **PURPOSE.** This Advisory Circular states and emphasizes Agency philosophy concerning expected pilots' response to air traffic control clearances and instructions.
2. **REFERENCE.** Federal Aviation Regulations § 91.75 and the Air Traffic Control Procedures Manual (AT P 7110.1A).
3. **GENERAL.** Due to the importance and function of clearances and instructions in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) System, it is essential that the execution of them by pilots produce the desired result. To achieve uniformity and clarity within the ATC System, and to insure standardization of air traffic controller and pilot techniques, the Agency has determined that the following guidelines be conformed to:
 - a. Pilots are expected to execute the provisions of an ATC clearance after acceptance. The principle to remember is that when a pilot receives a clearance whether it is an altitude change or radio frequency change, etc., he will execute the provisions as soon as practicable after acceptance.
 - b. In situations when pilots may have an option as to the time of execution, the controller will so state, "At pilot discretion."
 - c. Pilots are expected to comply with an ATC instruction upon receipt. Controllers, in certain situations, will include the word "IMMEDIATELY" in an instruction to impress urgency of an imminent situation and expeditious compliance by the pilot is expected and necessary for safety.

For Lee E. Warren, Director
Lee E. Warren, Director
Air Traffic Service

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 2. **REFERENCES.**
 - a. Federal Aviation Regulations, Section 91.75.
 - b. Terminal Air Traffic Control Handbook, 7110.8.
 - c. En Route Air Traffic Control Handbook, 7110.9.
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William E. Morgan
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Acting Director
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