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Federal Aviation Agency



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SUBJECT: PRESCRIBED IFR DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

- 1. <u>PURPOSE</u>. This Circular is to advise pilots of the source of information relative to IFR departure procedures published by the Agency for terrain/obstruction avoidance purposes.
- 2. BACKGROUND. Pilots should be familiar with terrain and obstructions at all locations where departures are contemplated. This is particularly applicable to departure from airports in mountainous terrain and during IFR conditions. At certain locations prescribed IFR departure procedures have been established to assist pilots conducting IFR flights in avoiding obstructions during climbout to the minimum en route altitude. These departure procedures have been published in several ways. In some instances, they were found to be not readily available to all pilots. Action has been taken to make the information more readily available to all concerned.
- 3. GENERAL INFORMATION. Departure procedures which have been established with a restriction due to terrain or obstructions during climbout from an airport to the minimum en route altitude are referenced on the appropriate standard instrument approach procedure. The symbol to be used for reference to departure restrictions will be the "%" symbol. Those restrictions are made available to pilots as follows:
 - a. They are published as footnotes on the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey instrument approach procedures charts for that airport. For example: %--takeoffs all runways; climb direct to Elkins RNG, then via 042° bearing to intercept the Elkins VOR radial 074, then continue climb on radial 074, or...
 - b. At locations that have published Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs) they may be incorporated in the appropriate SID and published as footnotes on the instrument approach procedures charts for the airport. For example: %--Westbound (V-4, V-220) IFR departures must comply with terrain/obstruction avoidance

restrictions included in Denver-Longmont Number Two SID or, %--IFR departures must comply with terrain/obstruction avoidance restrictions included in Denver SIDs.

- 4. PILOT ACTION. Each pilot, prior to departing an airport on an IFR flight should consider the type of terrain and other obstructions on or in the vicinity of the departure airport and take the following action:
 - Determine whether a departure procedure has been established for obstruction avoidance and that he will be able to comply with such procedures as necessary.
 - 2. Where departure procedures have not been established, determine for himself what action will be necessary and take such action that will assure a safe departure.

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