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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: THE AIRMAN'S INFORMATION MANUAL

1. PURPOSE. This Advisory Circular serves as a reminder of the importance of pilot familiarity with Rules, Practices, and Procedures for safe flight operations. It further describes the wealth of information available in the Airman's Information Manual (AIM) to assist the pilot in becoming familiar with these Rules, Practices and Procedures, plus the facilities and services provided by the Federal Aviation Administration.
2. GENERAL. In many cases wherein pilots were involved in a violation, incident, or accident, a major cause factor was pilot unfamiliarity with a rule or procedure pertinent to his operation. The Airman's Information Manual is designed to provide a pilot with much of the needed information required to conduct a safe flight.
3. THE AIRMAN'S INFORMATION MANUAL. The AIM has been designed as a pilot's operational manual for use primarily within the conterminous United States. It is divided into four basic parts, each of which may be purchased separately.
 - a. PART I, Basic Flight Manual and ATC Procedures. Part I of the AIM is issued quarterly and is designed as a training aid for the new pilot and as a refresher/reference guide for all pilots, particularly those who fly on an infrequent basis. It consists of five Chapters containing the following information:
 - (1) Chapter 1, General. A Glossary of Aviation Terms is included, as is a brief description of how aeronautical information is disseminated.
 - (2) Chapter 2, Navigation Aids. The various navigation aids employed in the national aviation system are discussed in non-technical terms. How the radar works for the pilot and the controller is described, including the capabilities and the limitations of both primary radar and air traffic control radar beacon system. The

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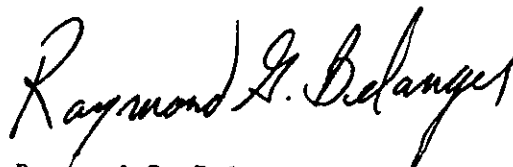
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VOR operation is explained as is Direction Finder use. The various airport lighting and marking aids are described and illustrated.

- (3) Chapter 3, The Airspace. Uncontrolled, controlled, special use, and other airspace areas are discussed and illustrated. Pertinent FARs are referenced which are applicable for flying in the various airspace segments.
 - (4) Chapter 4, Air Traffic Control. Much of the information and procedural knowledge required for operating in the ATC environment is discussed. ATC services provided the pilot, airport operations, IFR departure-enroute-arrival procedures are explained. Pertinent FAR's and ATC procedures affecting pilot operations are discussed. SIDS, STARS, RNAV route operation, emergency operation and services provided are described in detail.
 - (5) Chapter 5, Safety of Flight. Information on factors affecting the safety of flight is provided with suggested pilot actions recommended for the avoidance of some of the hazardous factors. Weather, Wake Turbulence, and thunderstorm flying are discussed. A "Good Operating Practice" section contains suggestions designed to aid the pilot and points out practices to follow in certain situations. A question/answer section on the FAR's is provided.
- b. PART 2, Airport Directory. Part 2 is issued semiannually and is essentially designed for the VFR pilot. It consists principally of three comprehensive directories - airports, seaplane bases, and heliports.
- (1) Directories of Airports, Seaplane Bases, and Heliports. Facilities included in this Part are those available to transient civil use in the conterminous U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Basic elements of data and cautionary and/or advisory remarks needed by pilots using these facilities are provided.
 - (2) Customs, Immigration and Naturalization, Public Health, and Agriculture Department Requirements. Basic information on these requirements which aircraft departing or returning to the U.S. need to know are discussed.
 - (3) U.S. International Airports (Airports of Entry) and Landing Rights Airports. A list of these airports with identification of these airports providing flight service notification to U.S. Customs is provided.
- c. PART 3 and 3A, Operational Data and Notices to Airmen, and Notices to Airmen, respectively. Part 3 is issued every 28 days, Part 3A is issued every 14 days. These parts are oriented towards the IFR

pilot and consists principally of an airport/facility directory, procedural data, special notices considered essential to the safety of flight, and material updating other parts of the AIM.

- (1) Airport/Facility Directory. The directory provides the basic data and remarks on the airports and the navaids contained therein needed by the pilot.
 - (2) Procedural Data and Special Notices. Data concerning air traffic control or flight procedures whose effectiveness is dependent upon the user's knowledge thereof is provided. Special Notices pertaining to unique or special operations are presented. Examples of procedural data or special notices include: SIDS, Substitute Route Structure, Area Navigation Routes, STARS, New and Permanently Closed Airports.
 - (3) Material updating Other Parts of AIM. Changes to material in other Parts of the AIM which are time-critical and cannot wait for publication in the Part are provided.
- d. PART 4, Graphic Notices and Supplemental Data. Part 4 is issued semiannually and is designed to fulfill the same purposes as Part 3 and consists of material which would normally be carried in Part 3 except that the material is sufficiently stable to require less frequent issuance.
- (1) Special Notice - Area Graphics. Special notices in graphic form which are not expected to change during the period covered by the Part 4 issuance are included. Examples: Terminal Area graphics, Index of Oil Burner Routes, Heavy Wagon Routes.
 - (2) Supplemental Data. Data on items not requiring frequent changes including; Parachute Jumping Areas, VOR Receiver Check Points, and a list of abbreviations used in the AIM.
4. HOW TO GET THESE PUBLICATIONS. The Parts are sold separately and may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. Annual subscription rates are Part 1 - \$4.00; Part 2 - \$4.00; Part 3 and 3A (3A provided at no cost to those ordering Part 3) - \$20.00; Part 4 - \$1.50. For foreign mailing other than Canada and Mexico an additional charge of \$1.00 for Part 1 or 2; \$5.00 additional for Part 3; and an additional 50¢ for Part 4.



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