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AC NO: AC 91-31

DATE: 1 Feb 71



# ADVISORY CIRCULAR

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**SUBJECT:** FAR REQUIREMENT FOR THE FILING OF FLIGHT PLANS FOR FLIGHTS  
BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

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1. **PURPOSE.** This advisory circular informs pilots of the requirements of section 91.12(c) of Part 91 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.
  2. **BACKGROUND.** Section 91.12(c) was implemented as a safety measure to meet the hazards resulting from attempts on the part of airborne drug smugglers to avoid detection or pursuit by violent evasive maneuvers, low flying, and other extremely dangerous flight techniques, including the use of unsafe landing areas. In an attempt to curb these undesirable practices, FAR 91.12(c) imposes a requirement for the filing of a flight plan for flights between the two countries in accordance with FAR Part 99, regardless of the exceptions listed in section 99.1(b).
  3. **REQUIREMENT.** Although FAR Part 99, in part, requires that a flight plan be filed for flights between Mexico and the United States, there are certain exceptions as follows:  
  
"section 99.1(b): Except for section 99.7, this subpart does not apply to the operation of an aircraft-- (1) In a Coastal or Domestic ADIZ north of 25 degrees north latitude or west of 85 degrees west longitude at a true airspeed of less than 180 knots; and (3) From any point in the 48 contiguous states on an outbound track through the Southern Border ADIZ that does not penetrate a Coastal ADIZ." NOTWITHSTANDING THOSE EXCEPTIONS, FAR 91, section 91.12(c) requires that a flight plan be filed by each person operating a civil aircraft between Mexico and the United States.
  4. **RECOMMENDATION.** The Federal Aviation Administration recommends that training agencies, instructors, and aviation organizations publicize to all pilots with whom they have contact, the requirements of FAR 91,
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section 91.12(c) concerning filing of flight plans for flights between Mexico and the United States. Consult the latest International Flight Information Manual and the Airman's Information Manual, Part 1, Chapter 4, National Security Section, for detailed procedures.



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Washington, D.C. 20590

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