



AC NO: 91-36

DATE: 7 Aug 72

# ADVISORY CIRCULAR

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**SUBJECT:** VFR FLIGHT NEAR NOISE-SENSITIVE AREAS

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1. **PURPOSE.** To encourage pilots making VFR flights near noise-sensitive areas to fly at altitudes higher than the minimum permitted by regulation and on flight paths which will reduce aircraft noise in such areas.
  2. **BACKGROUND.**
    - a. Increased emphasis on improving the quality of our environment requires renewed effort to provide relief and protection from aircraft noise.
    - b. Excessive aircraft noise can result in discomfort, inconvenience, or interference with the use and enjoyment of property, and can adversely affect wildlife. It is particularly undesirable near schools, nursing homes, hospitals, recreation areas, wildlife areas, etc.
    - c. Application of the flight procedures described below would be a practical indication of pilot concern for environmental improvement and would tend to build public support for aviation.
  3. **PROCEDURE.**
    - a. Pilots operating fixed and rotary-wing aircraft under VFR over outdoor assemblies of persons, recreational and park areas, churches, hospitals, schools, wildlife areas, and other such noise-sensitive areas should make every effort to fly not less than 2,000 feet above the surface, weather permitting, even though flight at a lower level may be consistent with the provisions of FAR 91.79, Minimum safe altitudes; general.
    - b. Avoidance of noise-sensitive areas, if practical, is preferable to over-flight at relatively low altitudes.
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- c. During departure or arrival from/to an airport, climb after takeoff and descent for landing should be made so as to avoid prolonged flight at low altitude near such areas.
  - d. This procedure does not apply where it would conflict with ATC clearances or instructions or where, in the pilot's judgment, an altitude of less than 2,000 feet is necessary in order for him to adequately exercise his duty to see and avoid other aircraft.
4. COOPERATIVE ACTIONS. Aircraft operators, user associations, airport managers and others are asked to assist in implementing the procedures contained herein by publicizing them and distributing information regarding known noise-sensitive areas.



WILLIAM M. FLENER  
Director, Air Traffic Service

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