

March 14 2005 DRVSM Update

During the FAA approval process of DigiFlite's "Affirm RVSM" online curriculum for use within a Part 135 operator's training program, the issue of primary altimeters when entering and within RVSM airspace was evaluated. The FAA's clarification is important and that is why we are sending this update now.

The last word:

When cross-checking altimeters – either before entering or within RVSM airspace – your *two primary altimeters* must agree within 200 feet.

In earlier versions of "Affirm RVSM", we stated that at least two of the altimeters (the two primary and the standby, if fitted) must agree within 200 feet.

We've also highlighted the distinction between Part 91 and Part 135 operators on the topics of receiving, maintaining, and losing RVSM authority.

To be granted RVSM authority:

- Part 91 operators receive Letters of Authorization (LOAs)
- Part 135 operators change their Operations Specifications

To maintain RVSM authority:

- Part 91 operators must renew their LOAs every two years
- Part 135 operators require no renewal

To lose RVSM authority:

- Both Part 91 and Part 135 operators can have their RVSM authority amended or revoked because of consistent equipment or operational errors and failure to report and correct them promptly.

"Affirm RVSM" has been updated to correct the errors and omissions. The changes are in *italics*.

Module 2: Qualifications and Requirements

Maintaining RVSM qualification

Page 6

Part 91 Letters of Authorization are valid for 24 months only and must be renewed biennially.

No renewal is required for Part 135 operators.

Maintaining RVSM qualification

Page 7

Change from

The FAA's enforcement program requires operators to "take immediate action" to remedy any RVSM equipment or operational errors. Failure to do so, or repeated deviations, is cause for the FAA to revoke or amend the LOA.

to

The FAA's enforcement program requires operators to "take immediate action" to remedy any RVSM equipment or operational errors. Failure to do so, or repeated deviations, is cause for the FAA to revoke or amend *RVSM authority*.

Summary

Page 14

- The RVSM Letter of Authorization (LOA) grants *Part 91 operators* authorization for RVSM operations.
- *A change in Operations Specifications grants Part 135 operators authorization for RVSM operations.*

Change from

An RVSM LOA can be revoked or amended because of consistent equipment or operational errors and failure to report and correct them promptly.

to

RVSM authority can be revoked or amended because of consistent equipment or operational errors and failure to report and correct them promptly.

Module 4: Normal RVSM Operations

Flight Planning

Page 2

RVSM Approval

To verify that the aircraft is approved for flight under RVSM, make sure that the operator has a current LOA (*Part 91*) or *Operations Specifications change (Part 135)* authorizing RVSM flight.

Flying in RVSM Airspace

Page 8

Change from

"If any of these systems fail before entering RVSM airspace, request a new clearance from ATC to avoid flight in RVSM airspace."

to

"If *any of the required RVSM equipment fails* before entering RVSM airspace, request a new clearance from ATC to avoid flight in RVSM airspace."

Change from

"Cross-check all altimeters (the two primary and the standby, if fitted) to make sure at least two of them agree within ± 200 feet."

to

"Cross-check all altimeters (the two primary and the standby, if fitted). *Make sure the two primary altimeters* agree within ± 200 feet."

Flying in RVSM Airspace

Page 9

Change from

"A minimum of two altimeters must agree within ± 200 feet."

to

"*The two primary altimeters* must agree within ± 200 feet."

Summary

Page 14

Change from

"Cross-check all altimeters to make sure at least two of them agree within ± 200 feet."

to

"Cross-check all altimeters. *Make sure the two primary altimeters* agree within ± 200 feet."

Change from

"At least once an hour, cross-check all altimeters and make sure at least two of them agree within ± 200 feet."

to

"At least once an hour, cross-check all altimeters *and make sure the two primary altimeters* agree within ± 200 feet."

Module 5: Exceptions to Normal Operations

Equipment Failure

Page 2

Change from

"Remember, cross-check your altimeter readings (the primary systems and standby, if fitted) and record each value. At least two must agree within 200 feet. If they do not, you must notify ATC an altimetry system is defective."

to

"Remember, cross-check your altimeter readings (the primary systems and standby, if fitted) and record each value. *The two primary altimeters* must agree within 200 feet. If they do not, you must notify ATC an altimetry system is defective."

Quiz

Question 1:

The first sentence of the feedback should read "The difference between the two primary altimeters does not exceed 200 feet."

RVSM Cockpit Quick-Reference Cards

NORMAL CHECKLISTS – 2 of 2

FLIGHT IN RVSM AIRSPACE

PRIOR TO ENTRY IN RVSM AIRSPACE

Altimeters

- Initial cross-check – *primary* agree within ± 200 feet

IN LEVEL FLIGHT

Altimeters

- Hourly cross-check – *primary* agree within ± 200 feet