REDUCED VERTICAL SEPARATION MINIMUM (RVSM) MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Background
1. The height-keeping performance of aircraft is a key element in ensuring the safe operations of RVSM airspace. It has been determined that this may be accomplished by sampling a number of airframes of each aircraft type that an operator will operate in RVSM airspace. Altitude-keeping performance data is analyzed to determine that the aircraft fleet, as well as individual operators, exhibit performance that is consistent with RVSM standards.
2. All operators that conduct operations in RVSM airspace are required to participate in the RVSM monitoring program. Refer to 14 CFR part 91, appendix G:
   a) Section 2 (d), (e), and (f);
   b) Section 3 (c) (1) and (2);
   c) Section 4 (b) (2);
   d) Section 6 (b); and
   e) Section 7.

Monitoring Plan
3. To demonstrate the ability to maintain the Altimetry System Error (ASE) requirements of part 91, Appendix G, submit an RVSM height monitoring plan upon request for authorization. The elements of a monitoring plan include:
   a) Number and identification of aircraft to be monitored in each monitoring group;
   b) Expected time frame for completion of monitoring requirements; and
   c) Expected method for monitoring.

Minimum Requirements
4. Operators that have been issued a U.S. RVSM authorization are required to conduct initial monitoring within six months of date of issue and must conduct monitoring every two years or within intervals of 1,000 flight hours per aircraft, whichever period is longer.
   a) Operators are not required to complete monitoring prior to being granted operational approval.
   b) Evidence of previous successful monitoring of an aircraft transfers to a new owner and may be used to meet the monitoring requirements.
   c) When calculating the 1,000 hour provision of the minimum monitoring requirement the calculation of the flight time should be from the last valid monitoring date on record. Flight Log book data should be sufficient to meet this element.

RVSM Minimum Monitoring Chart
5. Since only a sampling of airframes of each aircraft type need to be monitored, operators with more than one aircraft may not need to have every airframe monitored. Determine the number of airframes each operator is required to have monitored using the RVSM Minimum Monitoring Chart. The current version of this chart can be found on the FAA RVSM Documentation web page in the “Monitoring Section”.

Completion of Monitoring Requirement
6. The following methods satisfy monitoring requirements:
   a) Entry of successful AGHME or other approved ground based monitoring system in the U.S. RVSM Approvals Data Base.
   b) A report of a successful monitoring supplied by an FAA approved GPS-based provider.
   c) Evidence provided through another ICAO sponsored Regional Monitoring Agency, such as EUROCONTROL.
NOTE: Requests for monitoring results by monitoring agencies outside the U.S. should be coordinated through the FAA Technical Center Separation Standards Analysis Branch.

Situations Where Monitoring Is Not Completed On Time

7. The FAA Technical Center Separation Standards Analysis Branch monitors RVSM airspace in North America and updates the U.S. RVSM Approvals Data Base to show the last date registered for a valid aircraft height monitoring.

   a) In a situation where an operator fails to meet the minimum operator requirements for monitoring within the prescribed time limits, it is the operator’s responsibility to contact the FSDO, CMO, CHDO or IFO to discuss the situation and provide an updated plan for completing the monitoring requirements.

   b) If warranted the FSDO may provide a letter to the operator extending the period for monitoring, not to exceed three months, to allow the operator sufficient time to complete height monitoring. During this extension the operator may continue to operate in RVSM airspace.

Effective Date

8. The Monitoring requirements became applicable on 18 May 2011 and operators had until 18 Nov 2012 to comply. See: NOTICES TO AIRMEN Domestic/International, Part 4 Graphic Notices, Section 1 General.

References:

   a) 14 CFR 91.180, Operations within airspace designated as Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum airspace
   b) 14 CFR Appendix G to Part 91, Section 3, Operations in Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum Airspace
   c) 14 CFR 91.706, Operations within airspace designated as Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum Airspace (foreign aircraft operations)
   d) FAA Advisory Circular 91-85, Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Authorizations

Points of Contact

9. Additional information concerning RVSM Monitoring can be found on the FAA RVSM Documentation webpage, Monitoring Requirements / Procedures section at:
http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/air_traffic_services/rvsm/documentation/#req