U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** TIL 02-042, Area Navigation (RNAV) "Q" Route processing

Date: DEC 12 2002

From: Manager, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, AFS-400

Reply to Attn. of:

To: Program Director, Aviation Systems Standards, AVN-1

This memorandum establishes guidance for processing and documenting stand-alone Area Navigation (RNAV) routes. These routes are identified on Enroute navigation charts with a "Q" preceding the route number, e.g., Q502. Initially, Q Routes will only be published on Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) Enroute High Altitude charts but will eventually become a part of the low altitude Enroute structure. Process and document these routes as follows:

1. Develop RNAV routes using non-Very-High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Distance Measuring Equipment (VOR/DME) route criteria found in Chapter 15 of FAA Order 8260.3B, Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS). In the interim until testing and analysis has been completed, the minimum length of an RNAV route is 12 nautical miles (NM).

2. RNAV routes must provide communication capability as discussed in TERPS, paragraph 1718, and as provided by conventional routes.

3. Initial implementation requires proposed routes to be assessed using the RNAV-Pro software to ensure flyability and that no critical DME facilities exist along the entire route for E, /F and /R aircraft. If a critical DME facility is identified by RNAV-Pro or flight Inspection, an RNAV route cannot be established.

4. RNAV routes will be incorporated into the obstruction evaluation program.

5. RNAV routes shall be documented on the FAA Form 8260-16 in the same manner as a Jet route is currently, replacing the "J" with "Q".

This TERPS Instruction Letter (TIL) expires upon publication of FAA Order 8260.19C, Flight Procedures and Airspace, Change 3 and FAA Order 8260.3B, United States Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures, Change 20, which ever occurs last. The

Requirements Document (RD) for publication of Q routes on Enroute navigation charts has been submitted for Intra-agency Air Cartographic Committee (IACC) approval.

Please direct all inquiries to Donald P. Pate, AFS-420, at (405) 954-4164.

John W. McGraw