



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Policy on Use of 175 Knots Indicated  
Airspeed (KIAS) Holding Pattern

Date: February 6, 2004

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

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: Program Director of Aviation System Standards,  
AVN-1

AFS-420 memo of June 8, 1998, is cancelled. This memorandum is a replacement of that policy guidance.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 7130.3A, Holding Pattern Criteria, establishes maximum holding pattern airspeeds for civil aircraft. Civil aircraft standard maximum holding airspeeds are 200 KIAS for minimum holding altitudes up to 6,000 feet, 230 KIAS for altitudes above 6,000 feet up to 14,000 feet, and 265 KIAS for altitudes above 14,000 feet.

A 175 KIAS holding pattern is Non-Standard and is highly discouraged. Development of 175 KIAS holding patterns shall only be accomplished to avoid obstacles and terrain and as necessary to meet procedure design requirements.

a. Waiver action is not required when 175 KIAS holding patterns are established as part of an instrument procedure that is restricted for use by Category A and B aircraft only.

b. Waiver action is required when 175 KIAS holding patterns are established on procedures authorized for use by Category C or D (or Cat E, if applicable) aircraft and/or will be used by any category in en route operations.

*NOTE: Regardless of which situation stated above applies, the affected holding pattern, when used, will be charted with the "175K" cartographic icon.*

Screen existing published instrument procedures having a 175 KIAS holding pattern in the approach or missed approach phase of flight. As a result of this screening:

a. If the holding pattern speed can be increased to standard without an unacceptable increase in minimum holding altitude, issue a Flight Data Center (FDC) Notice to Airmen

(NOTAM) deleting the 175 KIAS speed restriction and specifying the new holding altitude if necessary. Process an amendment to the procedure to cancel the NOTAM in a timely manner.

b. If the procedure provides Category C or D (or Cat E, if applicable) minima and the holding pattern speed cannot be increased, send an FDC NOTAM restricting the procedure to Category A and B only; e.g., "Not Authorized for Cat C and D aircraft" (include Cat E, if applicable). Process an amendment to the procedure to authorize Category A and B minima only. If a Category C, D or E requirement exists, develop a new procedure, where possible, to support the operation.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated. Please assign highest priority to required actions, and inform this office when all required actions are complete. Please direct all inquiries to Donald Pate, AFS-420, at (405) 954-4164.

Original Signed By:

Peter W. Dula

John W. McGraw

cc:

AFS-400/405/410/420ok/420dc/430/440

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