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. The RVSM monitoring standards established in paragraph 3.2 are considered the minimum requirement needed to maintain the safety of operations in RVSM designated airspace.

2. In conjunction with internationally agreed upon changes to ICAO Annex 6, Operation of Aircraft, Parts I & II, applicable on 18 November 2010, the following standard and recommended practice was adopted by ICAO:

   Operators, that have been issued an U.S. RVSM approval, shall ensure that a minimum of two airplanes of each [RVSM] aircraft type grouping of the operator have their height-keeping performance monitored, at least once every two years or within intervals of 1,000 flight hours per airplane, whichever period is longer. If an operator aircraft type grouping consists of a single airplane, monitoring of that airplane shall be accomplished within the specified period.

RVSM LONG TERM MONITORING REQUIREMENTS
1. The Federal Aviation Administration will implement the standard above for RVSM Monitoring requirements. Operators that have been issued an U.S. RVSM authorization will be 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, in accordance with the aircraft categories as presented in the current version of the (North American) RVSM Minimum Monitoring Requirements chart.

2. The RVSM Minimum Monitoring Requirements chart is coordinated with the North American Approvals Registry and Monitoring Organization (NAARMO) and updated periodically to reflect changes in aircraft data. The RVSM Minimum Monitoring Requirements Chart is posted to the FAA RVSM Webpage in documentation section “Monitoring Requirements/Procedures”.

EFFECTIVE DATE
1. The Monitoring requirements become applicable on 18 May 2011 and operators have until 18 Nov 2012 to comply.

COMPLIANCE
1. Operators found not in compliance will be required to show reason for not meeting the requirements including flight hour data to justify the 1000 flight hour provision if last successful monitoring exceeds a two year period.
2. Operators found not in compliance with the minimum monitoring requirements risk suspension of their RVSM authorization. Reinstatement of RVSM authorization will be granted upon the operator demonstrating they have met the minimum monitoring requirements.

References:

14 CFR 91.706, Operation within airspace designed as Reduced Vertical Separation
14 CFR Appendix G to Part 91, Section 3, Operations in Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Airspace
14 CFR 91.180, Operations within airspace designated as Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum airspace
ICAO ANNEX 6, Parts I and II (7.27 and 2.5.27 respectively), Operation of Aircraft
ICAO ANNEX 11, 3.3.5.1 -3.3.5.2, Air Traffic Services
FAA Advisory Circular 91-85, Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Authorizations

POINTS OF CONTACT

1. Information concerning the FAA implementation will be posted to the RVSM Webpage at: http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/enroute/rvsm/documentation/#req under the RVSM Documentation section titled: Monitoring Requirements / Procedures

2. For questions or concerns regarding the new changes, the following points of contacts for the FAA have been established below:

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