

Aviation Group Client Update

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FAA ISSUES NOTICE TO OPERATORS REGARDING RVSM OPERATIONS

Earlier this year, the FAA issued (Information for Operators) [InFO 12001](#), Flight Planning Responsibilities When Conducting Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Operations, in response to safety concerns related to numerous instances of pilots requesting RVSM flight levels or cruising in RVSM airspace without required authorization and/or not using proper phraseology and flight plan filing practices as set forth in the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM).

With limited exceptions, both the operator and aircraft must have RVSM authorization, and RVSM authorized aircraft must have all RVSM equipment operable to operate at RVSM altitudes. (See 14 CFR 91.180 and Part 91, Appendix G.) Applicable guidance suggests that except when using procedures found in AIM [4-6-10](#), the pilot will neither request nor accept a clearance into RVSM airspace if any of the above conditions are not met. Otherwise, the air traffic automation system does not alert the controller to provide the required 2000' vertical separation for the non-RVSM aircraft.

To reduce the number of incorrect flight plan requests, the FAA recommends that Program Managers, Directors of Operations, Directors of Safety, Pilots, dispatchers, flight planning services and flight followers review the AIM guidance material pertaining to RVSM flight planning requirements and operations in RVSM airspace.

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