

UK STANDARD INSTRUMENT DEPARTURES REVISION OF AIP CHART VERTICAL PROFILE INFORMATION.

1 Introduction

1.1 As a result of a misinterpretation of instructions contained in a UK AIP Standard Instrument Departure (SID) Chart, The Department for Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch issued a recommendation to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The recommendation requires *'that the CAA should ensure that the vertical profile information included within the general information section of all SIDs published in the UK AIP is unambiguous and that the wording used is consistent across all UK SIDs.'*

2 Vertical Profile Information

2.1 All published AIP UK SID charts contain vertical profile information displayed in both textual and graphical format in their respective sections of the chart. These are augmented by statements in the 'General Information' section, which are intended to reinforce the UK's policy that, no turns on departure shall be commenced before achieving 500 ft above aerodrome level (aal). This is a filed UK difference to the ICAO standard 120 M, or 394 ft aal.

3 General Information, Vertical Profile Information Statements

3.1 Currently, although these statements are intended to convey the same meaning, they are inconsistent in their wording. Two examples are shown below:

- a. 'Initial climb straight ahead' (to a specified altitude equivalent to 500 ft aal, followed by the text) '500 ft QFE.'
- b. 'No turns below' (a specified altitude equivalent to 500 ft aal, followed by the text) '500 ft QFE.'

3.2 Further to the AAIB recommendation, the CAA also considers that the inclusion of these vertical profile information statements in the General Information section is inappropriate, and they shall be removed. A box containing a warning will be placed on the SID chart. This warning will consist of the instruction 'No turns below XXXft QNH (500 ft QFE)' where XXXft is equivalent to 500 ft aal.

4 Implementation (No turns below 500 ft aal warning).

4.1 The warning box is to be placed in a prominent position on UK AIP SID charts, coincident with the removal of any vertical profile information from the General Information section. Where there is no vertical profile information contained the General Information section the warning text box will be added. An example is shown at Annex A.

4.2 The CAA accepts that the immediate application of these changes to all published SIDs is impracticable; therefore, a phased implementation will be introduced. The planned completion date is for March 2013.

4.3 Further information can be obtained from:

The Head of Controlled Airspace Section
Directorate of Airspace Policy
Civil Aviation Authority
CAA House
45-59 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6TE

5 References:

UK Aeronautical Information Package (AIP)

ANNEX A - 'Example of UK SID Chart containing No turns below 500 ft aal Warning.'

UK AIP

AD 2-EGCC-6-3

STANDARD DEPARTURE CHART -
INSTRUMENT (SID) - ICAO

DISTANCES IN NAUTICAL MILES
BEARINGS, TRACKS AND RADIALS ARE MAGNETIC
ALTITUDES AND ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET

MANCHESTER
WAL 1R 1S 1Y 1Z



Civil Aviation Authority