

# HEMS OPERATIONS

## HEMS Authorizations, Authorized WX Sources, & Associated OPSPECS

Presented to: HEMS WEATHER SUMMIT

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Federal Aviation  
Administration



# POLICY RELATED TO HEMS WX

- **A021 HEMS OPERATIONS**
- **A010 AVIATION WEATHER INFORMATION**
- **H113 SPECIAL TERMINAL AREA IFR ROTORCRAFT OPERATIONS IN CLASS G AIRSPACE**
- **EXEMPTIONS**
- **§ 135.213(b) & NWS**



# A021 HELMS OPERATIONS

– § e. Minimum weather in Class G = VFR per Table 1- Weather Minimums

Area -	NON-MOUNTAINOUS		MOUNTAINOUS (see 14 CFR 95)	
	Local	Cross Country	Local	Cross Country
Condition	<i>Ceiling-Visibility</i>			
Day	800 – 2	800 – 3	800 – 3	1000 - 3
Night – Equipped with NVIS or TAWS	800 – 3	1000 – 3	1000 – 3	1000 – 5
Night- w/o NVIS or TAWS	1000 – 3	1000 – 5	1500 – 3	1500 – 5

# A021 HEMS OPERATIONS

- §f. IFR OPS at locations without weather reporting-
  - AUTHORIZED with IAP, and without:
    - NWS weather or
    - NWS approved weather observation source or
    - Weather observation approved by Administrator



# A021 HEMS OPERATIONS

- **§f. IFR OPS LIMITATIONS**

- 1) PIC or qualified observer- VFR? per 135.205(b) or,
- 2) Use approved weather source if within 15 miles or Area forecast per H113 AND,
- 3) IFR- Alternate w/ approved WX observation resource
- 4) AFTER LANDING, PIC determines if takeoff minimums per 14 CFR §97 prevail



# A021 HEMS OPERATIONS

- **§g. IMPACT OF HTAWS / NVIS**
  - **To use Table 1 reduced minimums- OPSPEC A050 (NVG Operations) must be issued**



# A021 HELMS OPERATIONS

- **§h. VFR / Visual transitions  $\leq$  3 nm**
  - 1) **Day 600 – 2, Night 600 – 3 with-**
    - **PinS approach with “Proceed VFR” transition or**
    - **Standard IAP with VFR transition MAP to site**



# A021 HEMS OPERATIONS

- **§h. VFR / Visual transitions > 3 nm**
  - 2) Table 1 applies
  - 3) When published on IAP, approved visual segment minimums apply
- **§i. VFR cruise altitude minimums**
  - 300 day
  - 500 night





# A010 AVIATION WEATHER INFO

- **AUTHORIZES VARIOUS WEATHER SOURCES**
  - **NWS**
  - **Internet weather providers**
  - **Specific remote aviation weather observation sites WITH Specific landing sites (conditions and limitations may apply)**



# H113 IFR IN CLASS G AIRSPACE

- **CLASS G OPS AUTHORIZED PROVIDING-**
  - 1) Airport is served by IAP
  - 2) Airport has approved WX Reporting
  - 3) Airport provides traffic advisories and status of facilities and services
  - 4) Facilities and services for SAFE IFR Operations are available
- **CLASS G OPS at an alternate is authorized if 1) – 4) above are met**

# EXEMPTIONS

- **HAI Consortium Exemption-**
  - **Where weather observation is not available (eg: Hospital)**
  - **Allows qualified PIC or representative to observe weather prior to IFR departure**
  - **Determine that weather is VFR or not**



# § 135.213(b) & NWS

- **Allows application of weather observation taken remote from landing site providing:**
  - **NWS Regional Aviation Meteorologist concurs**
- **NWS POLICY 10-1301 supports this analysis and disposition**
- **NWS may non-concur**
- **NON-CONCUR cannot be over-ridden**
- **NWS CONCURS- Confirmation Letter from NWS to FAA & listed in OpSpec A010**

# § 135.213(b) & NWS

- **ISSUES (PREVIOUSLY RARELY USED PROCESS)**
  - 8900.1 GUIDANCE inadequate
  - NWS Regional Meteorologist is a rotational position
  - No single access point is available at this time
  - MOA or MOU may be advisable

# § 135.213(b) & NWS

## • PROPOSED GO FORWARD PLAN

### – FAA-

- Proposed- 8900.1 guidance revision (in works)
- Proposed- standard Inter-Agency Request Template
- Invite collaborative development of a mutually agreeable linkage

### – NWS-

- Review and consider FAA proposals
- Establish a process for consistent evaluation
- Establish a static address or a consistent means of receiving requests for analysis and disposition

# Request for NWS WX valuation

- **The EVAL REQUEST must:**
  - Mention 14 CFR 135.213(b) and NWS Policy 10-1301 to orient the Meteorologist
  - Provide the location of the landing site (airport or heliport by FAA identifier, if available, and geo-coordinates)
  - Provide the location of the nearest aviation weather observation site (again by FAA identifier and geo-coordinates)



# NWS Evaluation

- **The NWS Regional Aviation Meteorologist will determine whether or not the weather observed at the remote observation site is representative of the weather at the landing site.**
- **After NWS Team concurrence, the result will be forwarded to the FAA FSDO.**





