HEMS OPERATIONS

HEMS Authorizations, Authorized WX Sources, & Associated OPSPECS

Presented to: HEMS WEATHER SUMMIT
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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
§ e. Minimum weather in Class G = VFR per Table 1 - Weather Minimums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area -</th>
<th>NON-MOUNTAINOUS</th>
<th>MOUNTAINOUS (see 14 CFR 95)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Ceiling-Visibility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>800 – 2</td>
<td>800 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night – Equipped with NVIS or TAWS</td>
<td>800 – 3</td>
<td>1000 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night- w/o NVIS or TAWS</td>
<td>1000 – 3</td>
<td>1000 – 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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• §g. IMPACT OF HTAWS / NVIS
  – To use Table 1 reduced minimums- OPSPEC A050 (NVG Operations) must be issued
A021 HEMS OPERATIONS

• §h. VFR / Visual transitions <= 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.