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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2020–0236; Airspace Docket No. 18–AEA–16]

RIN 2120–AA66

Establishment and Amendment of Area Navigation Routes, Northeast Corridor Atlantic Coast Routes; Eastern United States.

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action establishes seven new high altitude area navigation (RNAV) routes (Q-routes), and modifies one existing Q-route, in support of the Northeast Corridor Atlantic Coast Route (NEC ACR) Project. This action improves the efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS) by expanding the availability of RNAV routing and reducing the dependency on ground-based navigational systems.

DATES: Effective date 0901 UTC, September 10, 2020. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under Title 1 Code of Federal Regulations part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: FAA Order 7400.11D, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. For further information, you can contact the Rules and Regulations Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783. The Order is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of FAA Order 7400.11D at NARA, email:

fedreg.legal@nara.gov or go to <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Gallant, Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for This Rulemaking

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it supports the air traffic service route structure in the eastern United States to maintain the efficient flow of air traffic.

History

The FAA published a notice of proposed rulemaking for Docket No. FAA–2020–0236 in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 16572; March 24, 2020) to establish 19 new Q-routes, and amend 13 existing Q-routes, in the northeastern United States to support the Northeast Corridor Atlantic Coast Route project. The NPRM proposed to designate the following new routes: Q–101, Q–107, Q–111, Q–115, Q–117, Q–119, Q–127, Q–129, Q–131, Q–133, Q–167, Q–220, Q–419, Q–430, Q–437, Q–439, Q–445, Q–450, and Q–481. In addition, the NPRM proposed amendments to the following existing routes: Q–22, Q–54, Q–60, Q–64, Q–85, Q–87, Q–97, Q–99, Q–109, Q–113, Q–135, Q–409, and Q–480. Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking effort by submitting written comments on the proposal. No comments were received.

Differences From the NPRM

As the NPRM was published, the United States was undergoing the effects of the world-wide COVID–19 pandemic. The restrictions imposed to confront the

pandemic impacted the ability of air traffic control facilities to conduct the required air traffic controller training to implement these routes, including required classroom and simulator training. The FAA determined that training to implement all 32 routes addressed in the NPRM could not be accomplished in the near-term.

As a result, the FAA is limiting the scope of this rule to establishing the following seven Q-routes: Q–119, Q–127, Q–129, Q–220, Q–430, Q–439, and Q–450; and amending the existing route: Q–480. The descriptions of these routes are the same as proposed in the NPRM. The remaining routes contained in the NPRM are removed from this rule and will be addressed by separate rulemaking action at a later date.

Area navigation routes are published in paragraph 2006, of FAA Order 7400.11D dated August 8, 2019, and effective September 15, 2019, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The area navigation routes listed in this document will be subsequently published in the Order.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document amends FAA Order 7400.11D, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 8, 2019, and effective September 15, 2019. FAA Order 7400.11D is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. FAA Order 7400.11D lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Rule

The FAA is amending Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 by establishing seven new Q-routes, and amending one existing Q-route, in the eastern United States to support the Northeast Corridor Atlantic Coast Route project. The new routes are designated: Q–119, Q–127, Q–129, Q–220, Q–430, Q–439, and Q–450. In addition, amendments are made to the description of Q–480.

The new Q-routes are described as follows:

Q–119: Q–119 extends between the SCOOB, VA, WP, and the Westminster, MD (EMI), VORTAC.

Q–127: Q–127 extends between the Gordonsville, VA (GVE), VORTAC, and the Smyrna, DE (ENO), VORTAC.

Q-129: Q-129 extends between the GARIC, NC, WP, and the PYTON, MD, WP.

Q-220: Q-220 extends between the RIFLE, NY, Fix, and the LARIE, MA, WP.

Q-430: Q-430 extends between the ZANDER, OH, Fix, and the Nantucket, MA (ACK), VOR/DME.

Q-439: Q-439 extends between the BRIGS, NJ, Fix, and the Presque Isle, ME (PQI), VOR/DME.

Q-450: Q-450 extends between the HNNAH, NJ, Fix, and the Deer Park, NY (DPK), VOR/DME.

The amended Q route is described as follows:

Q-480: Q-480 extends between the ZANDR, OH, Fix, and the Kennebunk, ME, VORTAC. The route is amended by inserting the KYLOH, NH, WP and the BEEKN, ME, WPs between the Barnes, MA (BAF), VORTAC, and the Kennebunk, ME (ENE), VOR/DME. Otherwise, Q-480 remains as currently charted.

Full route descriptions of the proposed new and amended routes are listed in “The Amendment” section of this rule.

The new and amended routes expand the availability of high altitude RNAV routing along the eastern seaboard of the U.S. The project is designed to increase airspace capacity and reduce complexity in high volume areas through the use of optimized routes through congested airspace.

FAA Order 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under Department of Transportation (DOT) Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that only affects air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

The FAA has determined that this action of establishing seven high altitude RNAV routes (Q routes), and amending one Q route qualifies for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR part 1500, and in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F—Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, paragraph 5–6.5a, which categorically excludes from further environmental impact review rulemaking actions that designate or modify classes of airspace areas, airways, routes, and reporting points (see 14 CFR part 71, Designation of Class A, B, C, D, and E Airspace Areas; Air Traffic Service Routes; and Reporting Points). As such, this action

is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts. In accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, paragraph 5–2 regarding Extraordinary Circumstances, this action has been reviewed for factors and circumstances in which a normally categorically excluded action may have a significant environmental impact requiring further analysis, and it is determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant preparation of an environmental assessment.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g); 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389.

§ 71.1 [Amended]

■ 2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.11D, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 8, 2019 and effective September 15, 2019, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 2006 United States Area Navigation Routes

* * *		
Q-119	SCOOB, VA to Westminster, MD (EMI) [New]	
SCOOB, VA	WP	(Lat. 37°35'32.00" N, long. 076°37'49.00" W)
GROKK, VA	WP	(Lat. 37°52'22.88" N, long. 076°40'49.87" W)
RYVRR, VA	WP	(Lat. 38°02'17.54" N, long. 076°42'36.92" W)
SHTGN, MD	WP	(Lat. 38°14'45.29" N, long. 076°44'52.23" W)
DUALY, MD	WP	(Lat. 38°45'53.59" N, long. 076°50'33.76" W)
HALEX, MD	WP	(Lat. 38°53'49.13" N, long. 076°52'01.49" W)
Westminster, MD (EMI)	VORTAC	(Lat. 39°29'42.03" N, long. 076°58'42.86" W)
* * *		
Q-127	Gordonsville, VA (GVE) to Smyrna, DE (ENO) [New]	
Gordonsville, VA (GVE)	VORTAC	(Lat. 38°00'48.96" N, long. 078°09'10.89" W)
BUKYY, MD	WP	(Lat. 38°42'20.00" N, long. 076°44'42.63" W)
BAILZ, MD	WP	(Lat. 38°44'54.47" N, long. 076°38'48.17" W)
GRACO, MD	FIX	(Lat. 38°56'29.81" N, long. 076°11'59.22" W)
Smyrna, DE (ENO)	VORTAC	(Lat. 39°13'53.93" N, long. 075°30'57.49" W)
* * *		
Q-129	GARIC, NC to PYTON, MD [New]	
GARIC, NC	WP	(Lat. 33°52'34.84" N, long. 077°58'53.66" W)
YERBA, NC	WP	(Lat. 35°19'00.83" N, long. 077°55'44.62" W)

AARNN, NC	WP	(Lat. 36°22'43.59" N, long. 078°01'04.05" W)
THEOO, VA	WP	(Lat. 37°35'34.68" N, long. 078°07'20.23" W)
PYTON, MD	WP	(Lat. 39°42'38.01" N, long. 078°18'10.19" W)

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q-220 RIFLE, NY to LARIE, MA [New]						
RIFLE, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°41'24.18" N, long. 072°34'54.89" W)				
HOFFI, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°48'03.46" N, long. 072°27'41.97" W)				
ORCHA, NY	WP	(Lat. 40°54'55.46" N, long. 072°18'43.64" W)				
ALBOW, NY	WP	(Lat. 41°02'04.04" N, long. 071°58'30.69" W)				
Sandy Point, RI (SEY)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 41°10'02.77" N, long. 071°34'33.91" W)				
SKOWL, RI	WP	(Lat. 41°15'47.18" N, long. 071°16'44.35" W)				
JAWZZ, MA	WP	(Lat. 41°24'08.08" N, long. 070°50'33.25" W)				
LARIE, MA	WP	(Lat. 41°49'23.46" N, long. 069°58'41.96" W)				

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Q-430 ZANDER, OH to Nantucket, MA (ACK) [New]						
ZANDER, OH	FIX	(Lat. 40°00'18.75" N, long. 081°31'58.35" W)				
Bellaire, OH (AIR)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 40°01'01.29" N, long. 080°49'02.02" W)				
LEJOY, PA	FIX	(Lat. 40°00'12.22" N, long. 079°24'53.61" W)				
VINSE, PA	FIX	(Lat. 39°58'16.21" N, long. 077°57'21.20" W)				
BEETS, PA	FIX	(Lat. 39°57'20.57" N, long. 077°26'59.55" W)				
LARRI, PA	FIX	(Lat. 39°57'02.33" N, long. 077°17'54.14" W)				
SAAME, PA	FIX	(Lat. 40°01'51.82" N, long. 076°29'02.39" W)				
BYRDD, PA	FIX	(Lat. 40°05'31.93" N, long. 075°49'07.29" W)				
COPEs, PA	FIX	(Lat. 40°07'50.57" N, long. 075°22'36.37" W)				
Robbinsville, NJ (RBV)	VORTAC	(Lat. 40°12'08.65" N, long. 074°29'42.09" W)				
MYRCA, NJ	WP	(Lat. 40°20'42.97" N, long. 073°56'58.07" W)				
CREEL, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°26'50.51" N, long. 073°33'10.68" W)				
RIFLE, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°41'24.18" N, long. 072°34'54.89" W)				
KYSKY, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°46'52.75" N, long. 072°12'21.45" W)				
LIBBE, NY	FIX	(Lat. 41°00'15.86" N, long. 071°21'20.34" W)				
FLAPE, MA	FIX	(Lat. 41°03'56.30" N, long. 071°04'10.55" W)				
DEEPO, MA	FIX	(Lat. 41°06'53.96" N, long. 070°50'09.85" W)				
Nantucket, MA (ACK)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 41°16'54.79" N, long. 070°01'36.16" W)				

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q-439 BRIGS, NJ to Presque Isle, ME (PQI) [New]						
BRIGS, NJ	FIX	(Lat. 39°31'24.72" N, long. 074°08'19.67" W)				
DRIFT, NJ	FIX	(Lat. 39°48'53.56" N, long. 073°40'49.53" W)				
MANTA, NJ	FIX	(Lat. 39°54'07.01" N, long. 073°32'31.63" W)				
PLUME, NJ	FIX	(Lat. 40°07'06.67" N, long. 073°17'08.03" W)				
SHERL, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°15'20.55" N, long. 073°07'18.26" W)				
DUNEE, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°19'24.38" N, long. 073°02'26.06" W)				
SARDI, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°31'26.61" N, long. 072°47'55.87" W)				
RIFLE, NY	FIX	(Lat. 40°41'24.18" N, long. 072°34'54.89" W)				
FOXWD, CT	WP	(Lat. 41°48'21.66" N, long. 071°48'07.03" W)				
BOGRT, MA	WP	(Lat. 42°13'56.08" N, long. 071°31'07.37" W)				
BLENO, NH	WP	(Lat. 42°54'55.00" N, long. 071°04'43.37" W)				
BEEKN, ME	WP	(Lat. 43°20'51.95" N, long. 070°44'50.28" W)				
FRIAR, ME	FIX	(Lat. 44°26'28.93" N, long. 069°53'04.38" W)				
Presque Isle, ME (PQI)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 46°46'27.07" N, long. 068°05'40.37" W)				

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q-450 HNNAH, NJ to Deer Park, NY (DPK) [New]						
HNNAH, NJ	FIX	(Lat. 40°28'12.73" N, long. 074°02'36.62" W)				
Kennedy, NY (JFK)	VOR/ME	(Lat. 40°37'58.40" N, long. 073°46'17.00" W)				
Deer Park, NY (DPK)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 40°47'30.30" N, long. 073°18'13.17" W)				

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q-480 ZANDR, OH to Kennebunk, ME (ENE) [Amended]						
ZANDR, OH	FIX	(Lat. 40°00'18.75" N, long. 081°31'58.35" W)				
Bellaire, OH (AIR)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 40°01'01.29" N, long. 080°49'02.02" W)				
LEJOY, PA	FIX	(Lat. 40°00'12.22" N, long. 079°24'53.61" W)				
VINSE, PA	FIX	(Lat. 39°58'16.21" N, long. 077°57'21.20" W)				
BEETS, PA	FIX	(Lat. 39°57'20.57" N, long. 077°26'59.55" W)				

HOTEE, PA	WP	(Lat. 40°20'36.00" N, long. 076°29'37.00" W)
MIKYG, PA	WP	(Lat. 40°36'06.00" N, long. 075°49'11.00" W)
SPOTZ, PA	WP	(Lat. 40°45'55.00" N, long. 075°22'59.00" W)
CANDR, NJ	FIX	(Lat. 40°58'15.55" N, long. 074°57'35.38" W)
JEFFF, NJ	FIX	(Lat. 41°14'46.38" N, long. 074°27'43.29" W)
Kingston, NY (IGN)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 41°39'55.62" N, long. 073°49'20.01" W)
LESWL, CT	WP	(Lat. 41°53'31.00" N, long. 073°19'20.00" W)
Barnes, MA (BAF)	VORTAC	(Lat. 42°09'43.05" N, long. 072°42'58.32" W)
KYLOH, NH	WP	(Lat. 43°03'53.11" N, long. 071°13'45.49" W)
BEEKN, ME	WP	(Lat. 43°20'51.95" N, long. 070°44'50.28" W)
Kennebunk, ME (ENE)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 43°25'32.42" N, long. 070°36'48.69" W)

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Issued in Washington, DC, on June 26, 2020.

Scott M. Rosenbloom,

Acting Manager, Rules and Regulations Group.

[FR Doc. 2020–14313 Filed 7–2–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 95

[Docket No. 31318; Amdt. No. 553]

IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts miscellaneous amendments to the required IFR (instrument flight rules) altitudes and changeover points for certain Federal airways, jet routes, or direct routes for which a minimum or maximum en route authorized IFR altitude is prescribed. This regulatory action is needed because of changes occurring in the National Airspace System. These changes are designed to provide for the safe and efficient use of the navigable airspace under instrument conditions in the affected areas.

DATES: Effective 0901 UTC, July 16, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas J. Nichols, Flight Procedures and Airspace Group, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration. Mailing Address: FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, Flight Procedures

and Airspace Group, 6500 South MacArthur Blvd., Registry Bldg. 29, Room 104, Oklahoma City, OK 73125. Telephone: (405) 954–4164.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This amendment to part 95 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 95) amends, suspends, or revokes IFR altitudes governing the operation of all aircraft in flight over a specified route or any portion of that route, as well as the changeover points (COPs) for Federal airways, jet routes, or direct routes as prescribed in part 95.

The Rule

The specified IFR altitudes, when used in conjunction with the prescribed changeover points for those routes, ensure navigation aid coverage that is adequate for safe flight operations and free of frequency interference. The reasons and circumstances that create the need for this amendment involve matters of flight safety and operational efficiency in the National Airspace System, are related to published aeronautical charts that are essential to the user, and provide for the safe and efficient use of the navigable airspace. In addition, those various reasons or circumstances require making this amendment effective before the next scheduled charting and publication date of the flight information to assure its timely availability to the user. The effective date of this amendment reflects those considerations. In view of the close and immediate relationship between these regulatory changes and safety in air commerce, I find that notice and public procedure before adopting this amendment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest and that good cause exists for making the amendment effective in less than 30 days.

Conclusion

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore—(1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. For the same reason, the FAA certifies that this amendment will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 95

Airspace, Navigation (air).

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 12, 2020.

Robert C. Carty,

Executive Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, part 95 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 95) is amended as follows effective at 0901 UTC, July 16, 2020.

■ 1. The authority citation for part 95 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40106, 40113, 40114, 40120, 44502, 44514, 44719, 44721.

■ 2. Part 95 is amended to read as follows: