

# AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 11/06

## CHANGE IN PROCEDURES FOR PERMITTING OPERATION OF NON-RVSM AIRCRAFT IN RVSM AIRSPACE

Reduced vertical separation minimum (RVSM) airspace is exclusionary, and operators of aircraft that have not received RVSM approval from their responsible State authority are, with the limited exceptions described below, not permitted to operate in RVSM airspace. Currently, operators of aircraft eligible for a limited exception are required by NAV CANADA to request approval for operation in RVSM airspace two hours in advance from the National Operations Centre (NOC) or the area control centre (ACC) concerned, and to file "STS/APVD NONRVSM" in field 18 of the flight plan.

Effective 20 July 2006, NAV CANADA no longer requires operators of aircraft not approved for RVSM but that may be permitted to operate in RVSM airspace to gain approval two hours before their planned departure time, or to file "STS/APVD NONRVSM" in field 18 of the flight plan. Instead, operators of such aircraft must

1. file their flight plan as usual, specifying the appropriate equipment code in field 10 (not "W");
2. insert remarks "STS/NONRVSM" in field 18; and
3. report the lack of RVSM approval, including supplementary information, to the controller on the initial call, and in all requests for flight level changes within RVSM airspace.

Aircraft may receive authorization from the controller, workload and traffic permitting.

A non-RVSM aircraft may be cleared to climb to and operate above flight level (FL) 410 or descend to and operate below FL 290 provided

1. the aircraft is capable of a continuous climb or descent and does not need to level off at an intermediate altitude for any operational considerations; and
2. the aircraft is capable of climb or descent at the normal rate for the aircraft.

State aircraft are exempt from the requirement to be authorized to operate in RVSM airspace. For the purpose of RVSM operations, State aircraft are those aircraft used in military, customs and police services.

A non-RVSM aircraft may flight plan to operate within RVSM airspace, provided the aircraft

1. is being delivered to the State of Registry or Operator;
2. was formerly RVSM-approved but has experienced an equipment failure and is being flown to a maintenance facility for repair in order to meet RVSM requirements and obtain approval;
3. is being used for mercy or humanitarian purposes;
4. is a photographic survey flight (Canadian Domestic Airspace only). Authorization is not applicable for that portion of the flight transiting to and from the area of survey or mapping operations;
5. is conducting flight checks of a navigation aid. Authorization is not applicable for that portion of the flight transiting to and from the area of flight check operations; or
6. is conducting a monitoring, certification or developmental flight.



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