

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 29/23

NOTICE OF DECOMMISSIONING OF CANADIAN AIRCRAFT GEOMETRIC HEIGHT MEASUREMENT ELEMENT (AGHME) SITES

Introduction

Operators of aircraft approved to fly with a 1,000-foot vertical separation in reduced vertical separation minimum (RVSM) airspace, which is all Canadian airspace between FL 290 and FL 410, are required to participate in the global RVSM height monitoring program. For North America, RVSM height monitoring is conducted via the North American Approvals Registry and Monitoring Organization (NAARMO), the official RVSM Regional Monitoring Agency (RMA) supporting implementation and continued safe use of the North American RVSM airspace. Monitoring requirements are described in Transport Canada Advisory Circular (AC) No. 700-039 (Requirements to obtain Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Special Authorization).

Aircraft Geometric Height Measurement Element (AGHME)

RVSM height monitoring has been provided by the Aircraft Geometric Height Measurement Element (AGHME) system, a ground-based constellation positioned at fixed locations in the United States and Canada that generates estimates of height-keeping performance parameters for aircraft flying within its coverage area. Canadian AGHME sites are located at Ottawa, Ontario and Lethbridge, Alberta.

Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) Height Monitoring

ADS-B has become the principle means for monitoring height-keeping performance for RVSM airspace in Canada, allowing for aircraft equipped with qualified ADS-B out systems to be automatically height-monitored each Monday during normal operations at RVSM altitudes. Aircraft that are due for periodic monitoring or that must verify performance can fly any Monday in Canadian airspace to obtain a monitoring result and no longer need to fly over the specific AGHME locations at Ottawa or Lethbridge. Effective 10 August 2023, Canada implemented an ADS-B Out Performance Requirements Mandate in Canadian Class A domestic airspace. This has resulted in the AGHME system no longer being required in Canada and its maintenance no longer feasible.

The purpose of this Circular is to inform air operators that, **effective 25 January 2024**, the Canadian AGHME sites will be decommissioned and taken out of service.

Further Information

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