FAA Consolidated Wake Turbulence (CWT) Radar Separation Standards Implementation
Notice Number: NOTC9850

Background: Aircraft Wake Recategorization (RECAT) is the safe decrease in separation standards between some aircraft types. Worldwide collaborative research by experts in wake turbulence, extensive safety and risk analysis, and over six years of RECAT operational experience at major U.S. airports has shown the required separation criteria between certain aircraft can be safely decreased. Consolidated Wake Turbulence (CWT) will take advantage of the continuing evolution of wake mitigation strategies to consolidate the benefits of previous RECAT efforts along with the standards of FAA Order JO 7110.65.

Implementation: Effective 0500 Pacific Daylight Time / 1300 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), Thursday, November 21 2019, Southern California/TRACON (SCT) will be designated a CWT facility and will separate arrivals and departures using CWT aircraft separation standards. The following Airport Traffic Control Towers (ATCTs), FAA Contract Towers (FCTs), and Non-Federal Contract Towers (NFCTs) within the Southern California approach control areas will also be designated as CWT facilities and will separate arrivals and departures using CWT aircraft separation standards.

- Southern California TRACON (SCT)
- Bob Hope Airport, Burbank, CA (BUR)
- Los Angeles International Airport, Los Angeles, CA (LAX)
- Ontario International Airport, Ontario, CA (ONT)
- San Diego International Airport, San Diego, CA (SAN)
- Chico Airport, Chino, CA (CNO)
- McClellan-Palomar Airport, Carlsbad, CA (CRQ)
- San Gabriel Valley Airport, El Monte, CA (EMT)
- Fullerton Municipal Airport, Fullerton, CA (FUL)
- Jack Northrop Field / Hawthorne Municipal Airport, Hawthorne, CA (HHR)
- Long Beach Airport / Daugherty Field, Long Beach, CA (LGB)
- Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport, San Diego, CA (MYF)
- Brackett Field Airport, La Verne, CA (POC)
- Palm Springs International Airport, Palm Springs, CA (PSP)
- Riverside Municipal Airport, Riverside, CA (RAL)
- Gillespie Field Airport, San Diego / El Cajon, CA (SEE)
- Santa Monica Municipal Airport, Santa Monica, CA (SMO)
- John Wayne-Orange County Airport, Santa Ana, CA (SNA)
- Zamperini Field Airport, Torrance, CA (TOA)
- Van Nuys Airport, Van Nuys, CA (VNY)
- Whiteman Airport, Los Angeles, CA (WHP)
- Camp Pendleton MCAS (Munn Field) Airport, Oceanside, CA (NFG)
- Miramar MCAS (Joe Foss Field) Airport, San Diego, CA (NKX)
- Imperial Beach Naval Outlying Field (Ream Field), Imperial Beach, CA (NRS)
- San Clemente Island Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NUC)
- North Island Naval Air Station (Halsey Field), San Diego, CA (NZY)
- March Air Reserve Base, Riverside, CA (RIV)
- Los Alamitos Army Airfield, Los Alamitos, CA (SLI)
- Ramona Airport, Ramona, CA (RNM)
- San Bernardino International Airport, San Bernardino, CA (SBD)
- Brown Field Airport, San Diego, CA (SDM)

Discussion: For Consolidated Wake Turbulence (CWT), aircraft are grouped into nine Wake Categories based on the following definitions:

Category A – A388
Category B – Upper Heavy aircraft.
Category C – Lower Heavy aircraft.
Category D – Heavy aircraft not included in Category B or C.
Category E – B757 aircraft.
Category F – Upper Large aircraft excluding B757 aircraft.
Category G – Lower Large aircraft.
Category H – Small aircraft with a maximum takeoff weight of more than 15,400 pounds up to 41,000 pounds.*
Category I – Small aircraft with a maximum takeoff weight of 15,400 pounds or less.*

*This order changes the lower boundary of Upper Small aircraft from 12,500 pounds to 15,400 pounds, however, be aware, some Small Plus aircraft are categorized as Lower Small (Category I).

Refer to FAA Order JO 7110.126, Consolidated Wake Turbulence (CWT) Separation Standards, for information on aircraft designator types and wake turbulence separation tables. There are no changes to existing radiotelephony usage, "HEAVY" and "SUPER" are used when applicable. RECAT information can also be found in Safety Alert For Operators (SAFO) #12007, #14007, and Information For Operators (InFO) #16016. Additional wake turbulence information can be found in Advisory Circular (AC) 90-23G, "Aircraft Wake Turbulence," and the FAA "Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM)."

These documents are available online at:
http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices
https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo/all_safos/
https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info/all_infos/
https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/

Please direct questions concerning CWT to an Operations Manager, Southern California TRACON (SCT), (858) 537-5900.