

[Amdt. 91-25, Docket No. 7056]

**PART 91—GENERAL OPERATING AND FLIGHT RULES**

**IFR Radio Communications**

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the requirement for a pilot to report the passing of designated reporting points while operating under radar control.

Section 91.125 of the Federal Aviation Regulations requires the pilot to report by radio as soon as possible the time and altitude of passing each designated reporting point or the reporting points specified by air traffic control.

The separation and control of air traffic under IFR is predicated upon knowledge of the position of aircraft in flight. The aircraft's position has been obtained through position reports transmitted by the pilot. Therefore, the regulations have, for years, required the pilot to communicate the passing of each designated reporting point as specified on charts or by ATC. In many areas today, surveillance radar permits ATC to observe the position of aircraft which have been identified on the radar display. This has obviated the need for the pilot to make routine position reports when operating under radar control. In this environment, pilots have been advised that they are in "radar contact" and that they should discontinue making position reports until advised they are no longer under radar control.

When radar control was implemented it was contemplated that the pilot should automatically omit making position reports when advised that ATC has radar contact, and should automatically resume making reports when informed that the radar service is terminated or the radar contact is lost. However, it was determined to allow a trial period during which the controller advised the pilot when position reports were no longer necessary. The results of this procedure during the trial period indicate that it is now appropriate to implement the procedure of automatically omitting position reports while under radar control.

Since this amendment is clarifying in nature and imposes no additional burden on any person, it is determined that notice and public procedure hereon is unnecessary.

In consideration of the foregoing, § 91.125(a) of Chapter I of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended, effective January 10, 1966, to read as follows:

§ 91.125 IFR radio communications.

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(a) The time and altitude of passing each designated reporting point, or the reporting points specified by ATC, except that while the aircraft is under radar control, only the passing of those reporting points specifically requested by ATC need be reported:

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(Sec. 307, Federal Aviation Act of 1958; 49 U.S.C. 1348)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 7, 1965.

WILLIAM F. MCKEE,  
Administrator.

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