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§ 71.5 [Amended]

■ 3. Section 71.5 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.15 [Amended]

■ 4. Section 71.15 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” everywhere that they appear and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.31 [Amended]

■ 5. Section 71.31 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.33 [Amended]

■ 6. Paragraph (c) of section 71.33 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.41 [Amended]

■ 7. Section 71.41 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” everywhere that they appear and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.51 [Amended]

■ 8. Section 71.51 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” everywhere that they appear and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.61 [Amended]

■ 9. Section 71.61 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” everywhere that they appear and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.71 [Amended]

■ 10. Paragraphs (b) through (f) of section 71.71 are amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” everywhere that they appear and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

§ 71.901 [Amended]

■ 11. Paragraph (a) of section 71.901 is amended by removing the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11H” and adding, in their place, the words “FAA Order JO 7400.11J.”

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 21, 2024.

Frank Lias,

Manager, Rules and Regulations Group.

[FR Doc. 2024-19004 Filed 8-23-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2024-0144; Airspace Docket No. 23-ASO-34]

RIN 2120-AA66

Establishment of Multiple United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action establishes United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes Q-147, Q-149, and T-484 in the eastern United States. This action supports FAA Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) efforts to provide a modern RNAV route structure to improve the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS).

DATES: Effective date 0901 UTC, October 31, 2024. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order JO 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), all comments received, this final rule, and all background material may be viewed online at www.regulations.gov using the FAA Docket number. Electronic retrieval help and guidelines are available on the website. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed

online at www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. You may also contact the Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian Vidis, 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 modifies the Air Traffic Service (ATS) route structure as necessary to preserve the safe and efficient flow of air traffic within the NAS.

History

The FAA published a NPRM for Docket No. FAA 2024-0144 in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 14786; February 29, 2024), proposing to establish United States RNAV Routes Q-147, Q-149, and T-484 in the eastern United States. Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking effort by submitting written comments on the proposal to the FAA. No comments were received.

Incorporation by Reference

United States Area Navigation routes are published in paragraph 2006 and 6011 of FAA Order JO 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 on an annual basis. This document amends the current version of that order, FAA Order JO 7400.11H, dated August 11, 2023, and effective September 15, 2023. FAA Order JO 7400.11H is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. These amendments will be published in the next update to FAA Order JO 7400.11.

FAA Order JO 7400.11H lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Rule

This action amends 14 CFR part 71 by establishing RNAV Routes Q–147, Q–149, and T–484 in the eastern United States. This action supports the FAA’s NextGen efforts to provide a modern RNAV route structure to improve the safety and efficiency of the NAS. The amendments are described below.

Q–147: Q–147 is a new RNAV route that extends between the BURGG, SC, waypoint (WP), and the Dryer, OH (DJB), Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range/Distance Measuring Equipment (VOR/DME). The route overlays Jet Route J–85 between the BURGG WP and the Dryer VOR/DME. The new route provides RNAV routing between the Spartanburg, SC, area, and the Cleveland, OH, area.

Q–149: Q–149 is a new RNAV route that extends between the BURGG, SC, WP and the Dryer, OH (DJB), VOR/DME. The route overlays Jet Route J–83 between the BURGG WP and the Dryer VOR/DME. The new route provides alternate RNAV connectivity between the Spartanburg, SC, area, and the Cleveland, OH, area.

T–484: T–484 is a new RNAV route that extends between the NELLO, GA, Fix, and the BURGG, SC, WP. The route overlays VOR Federal Airway V–415 between the NELLO Fix and the BURGG WP. The new route provides RNAV connectivity between the Atlanta, GA, area and the Spartanburg, SC, area.

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 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 airspace action of establishing United States RNAV Routes Q–147, Q–149, and T–484 qualifies for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) 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); paragraph 5–6.5b, which categorically excludes from further environmental impact review “Actions regarding establishment of jet routes and Federal airways (see 14 CFR 71.15, *Designation of jet routes and VOR Federal airways*) . . .”; and paragraph 5–6.5i, which categorically excludes from further environmental review the establishment of new or revised air traffic control procedures conducted at 3,000 feet or more above ground level (AGL); procedures conducted below 3,000 feet AGL that do not cause traffic to be routinely routed over noise sensitive areas; modifications to currently approved procedures conducted below 3,000 feet AGL that do

not significantly increase noise over noise sensitive areas; and increases in minimum altitudes and landing minima. As such, this action is not expected to result in any potentially significant environmental impacts. In accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, paragraph 5–2 regarding Extraordinary Circumstances, the FAA has reviewed this action for factors and circumstances in which a normally categorically excluded action may have a significant environmental impact requiring further analysis. Accordingly, the FAA has determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

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 14 CFR 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 JO 7400.11H, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 11, 2023, and effective September 15, 2023, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 2006 United States Area Navigation Routes.

* * * * *

Q–147 BURGG, SC to Dryer, OH (DJB) [New]

BURGG, SC	WP	(Lat. 35°02′00.55″ N, long. 081°55′36.86″ W)
Charleston, WV (HVQ)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 38°20′58.83″ N, long. 081°46′11.69″ W)
JAMOX, OH	FIX	(Lat. 39°42′38.70″ N, long. 081°51′44.12″ W)
Dryer, OH (DJB)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 41°21′29.03″ N, long. 082°09′43.09″ W)

* * * * *

Q–149 BURGG, SC to Dryer, OH (DJB) [New]

BURGG, SC	WP	(Lat. 35°02′00.55″ N, long. 081°55′36.86″ W)
Appleton, OH (APE)	VORTAC	(Lat. 40°09′03.83″ N, long. 082°35′17.88″ W)
Dryer, OH (DJB)	VOR/DME	(Lat. 41°21′29.03″ N, long. 082°09′43.09″ W)

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Paragraph 6011 United States Area Navigation Routes.

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T-484 NELLO, GA to BURGG, SC [New]

NELLO, GA	FIX	(Lat. 34°29'58.43" N, long. 084°25'00.24" W)
TALLE, GA	FIX	(Lat. 34°37'48.05" N, long. 083°40'48.64" W)
MILBY, SC	WP	(Lat. 34°41'02.23" N, long. 083°18'42.53" W)
BURGG, SC	WP	(Lat. 35°02'00.55" N, long. 081°55'36.86" W)

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 19, 2024.

Frank Lias,

Manager, Rules and Regulations Group.

[FR Doc. 2024-18879 Filed 8-23-24; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Parts 404 and 416

[Docket No. SSA-2022-0013]

RIN 0960-A171

Setting the Manner of Appearance of Parties and Witnesses at Hearings

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are revising our hearing regulations to provide that claimants may appear at hearings in one of four ways: by agency video, by online video, by audio, or in person. Those four manners will all be standard manners of appearance in our hearing process. For online video and audio appearances, claimants may appear for hearings remotely, using private electronic devices that we do not own, operate, or approve. For online video appearances, a claimant may appear for a hearing using approved online video conferencing applications, rather than conferencing options using equipment that we own or approve. Additionally, while our current regulations permit us to schedule claimants to appear by telephone in limited circumstances only, this final rule will allow us to schedule claimants to appear by audio without similar restrictions, if the claimant does not object to appearing in that manner. We expect that this final rule will provide us and claimants with additional flexibility, allowing us to manage our hearing process more efficiently.

DATES: This final rule is effective November 23, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Swansiger, Office of Hearings Operations, Social Security Administration, 250 E Street SW, Washington DC 20024, (703) 605-8500. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free

number, 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778, or visit our internet site, Social Security Online, at <https://www.ssa.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 19, 2023, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), *Setting the Manner of Appearance of Parties and Witnesses at Hearings*,¹ which proposed to update our hearing regulations by changing the term “video teleconference” to “video”; changing “telephone” to “audio”; and permitting “video” and “audio” to be used as standard manners of appearance. We proposed these changes to clarify that claimants may appear for hearings remotely using private electronic devices that we do not own, operate, or approve, and to make clear that a claimant may appear for a hearing using approved online video conferencing applications, rather than only conferencing options using equipment that we own or approve. We are making final the changes that we proposed in the NPRM, with certain modifications. The preamble to the NPRM provides the background for these changes, and we explain our reasons for modifications to the original proposal below.²

Background

When we determine your rights under title II or title XVI of the Social Security Act, we generally follow an administrative review process that consists of the following steps: an initial determination, and, as necessary, a reconsideration, a hearing with an administrative law judge (ALJ), and review by the Appeals Council.³ After completing these steps, a claimant may request judicial review of our final decision by filing a civil action in Federal district court.

As noted above, the third step in the administrative review process is a hearing held by an ALJ.⁴ Before the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

national public health emergency, we generally scheduled a claimant to appear at a hearing in one of three ways: by video teleconferencing (VTC),⁵ in person, or by telephone. Further, we scheduled claimants to appear by telephone in certain limited circumstances only, such as when we found an appearance by VTC or in person was not possible, or if other extraordinary circumstances prevented the claimant from appearing by VTC or in person.⁶

As explained in the NPRM in more detail, in March 2020, we began offering claimants the option to appear at hearings by telephone and later offered claimants the additional option to appear by online video in response to the COVID-19 national public health emergency.⁷ Based on our positive experience with these manners of appearance during the COVID-19 national health emergency and beyond,⁸ and in an effort to incorporate greater flexibility into our rules for claimants, we are adopting audio and online video as standard manners of appearance in our hearing process.⁹

Under this final rule, there will be four standard manners of appearance: agency video (*i.e.*, what we previously had defined as VTC), online video, audio, and in person. In the NPRM, we proposed to use the broader term “video” to capture appearances by agency video (where a person attends a hearing at one of our offices using our video equipment) as well as by online video (where a person attends a hearing from a private location using private equipment). As we explain in greater

⁵ We have traditionally used the term VTC to refer to an appearance by video using our equipment or equipment that we approve in a Field Office or other pre-approved site.

⁶ 20 CFR 404.936(c)(2)-(3); 404.937(b)(2), (c); 416.1436(c)(2)-(3); and 416.1437(b)(2), (c).

⁷ We began offering appearances at hearings by telephone in March 2020 and by online video in December 2020. Currently, we conduct online video appearances using a software application called “Microsoft Teams.” For more information, see https://www.ssa.gov/appeals/hearing_video.html.

⁸ 88 FR at 32146.

⁹ We will generally direct anyone we call as a witness to appear by audio, agency video, or online video. A witness called by the claimant, like our previous policy, will generally appear in the same manner as the claimant, unless the witness is unable to do so. If the witness is unable to appear in the same manner as the claimant, we will generally direct the witness to appear by audio or agency video.

¹ 88 FR 32145.

² The preamble to the NPRM is available for public viewing at <https://www.regulations.gov> and searching for document “SSA-2022-0013” or <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/19/2023-10564/setting-the-manner-of-appearance-of-parties-and-witnesses-at-hearings>.

³ 20 CFR 404.900(a) and 416.1400(a).

⁴ Under 20 CFR 404.956(a) and 416.1456(a), the Appeals Council may assume responsibility for a hearing request(s) pending at the hearing level of our administrative review process.