

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on October 6, 2021.

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Acting Group Manager, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2021–0805; Airspace Docket No. 20–AWP–57]

RIN 2120–AA66

Proposed Modification of Class E Airspace; Inyokern Airport, CA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to modify the Class E airspace at Inyokern Airport, Inyokern, CA. This action also proposes two administrative updates to the Class E5 text header. This action would ensure the safety and management of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations at the airport.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 29, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590; telephone: 1–800–647–5527, or (202) 366–9826. You must identify FAA Docket No. FAA–2021–0805; Airspace Docket No. 20–AWP–57, at the beginning of your comments. You may also submit comments through the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FAA Order JO 7400.11F, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. For further information, you can contact the Airspace Policy Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783. The Order is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of FAA Order JO 7400.11F at NARA, email fr.inspection@nara.gov or go to <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Van Der Wal, Federal Aviation Administration, Western Service Center, Operations Support Group, 2200 S 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone (206) 231–3695.

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 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 would modify the Class E airspace at Inyokern Airport, Inyokern, CA, to support IFR operations at the airport.

Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking by submitting such written data, views, or arguments, as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. Communications should identify both docket numbers and be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. Persons wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this notice must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: “Comments to Docket No. FAA–2021–0805; Airspace Docket No. 20–AWP–57”. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

All communications received before the specified closing date for comments will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRMs

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA’s web page at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/airspace_amendments/.

You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office (see the **ADDRESSES** section for the address and phone number) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the Northwest Mountain Regional Office of the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Organization, Western Service Center, Operations Support Group, 2200 S 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document proposes to amend FAA Order JO 7400.11F, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 10, 2021, and effective September 15, 2021. FAA Order JO 7400.11F is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. FAA Order JO 7400.11F lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Proposal

The FAA is proposing an amendment to 14 CFR part 71 by modifying the Class E airspace, extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Inyokern Airport, Inyokern, CA. This airspace is designed to contain departing IFR aircraft until reaching 1,200 feet above the surface and arriving IFR aircraft descending below 1,500 feet above the surface. To properly contain arriving IFR aircraft performing a circling maneuver, the circular radius of the airport should be increased from “2 miles” to “4 miles”. To properly contain departing IFR aircraft flying toward or over rising terrain, the airspace southwest of the airport should be widened and lengthened.

This action also proposes two administrative updates to the Class E5 text header. The airport name in the second line of the text header should be amended from “Inyokern Municipal Airport” to “Inyokern Airport”, to match the FAA database. The geographic coordinates in the third line of the text header should be updated to

“lat. 35°39’31” N, long. 117°49’46” W”, to match the FAA database.

Class E5 airspace designations are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order JO 7400.11F, dated August 10, 2021, and effective September 15, 2021, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designations listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

FAA Order JO 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

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, is non-controversial, and unlikely to result in adverse or negative comments. 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 will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

This proposal will be subject to an environmental analysis in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, “Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures” prior to any FAA final regulatory action.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 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 7400.11F, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 10, 2021, and effective September 15, 2021, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005 Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward From 700 Feet or More Above the Surface of the Earth.

* * * * *

AWP CA E5 Inyokern, CA [Amended]

Inyokern Airport, CA
(Lat. 35°39’31” N, long. 117°49’46” W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 4-mile radius of the airport, and within 2.7 miles each side of the 215° bearing from the airport extending from the 4-mile radius to 11.6 miles southwest of Inyokern Airport, excluding that airspace within Restricted Area R-2505 and R-2506.

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B.G. Chew,

Acting Group Manager, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 8

RIN 2900–AR29

National Service Life Insurance Premium Payment and Loan Amendment

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to amend its National Service Life Insurance regulations to offer Service-Disabled Veterans’ Insurance policyholders the option of remitting premiums for government life insurance coverage only on a monthly or annual basis. VA also proposes to increase the amount that Veteran policyholders are eligible to borrow against the value of their life insurance policies and to adjust the interest rates charged for fixed-rate loans in certain circumstances.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 13, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted through www.Regulations.gov. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “RIN 2900–AR29—National Service Life Insurance Premium Payment and Loan

Amendment.” Comments received will be available at regulations.gov for public viewing, inspection or copies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Weaver, Insurance Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Service (310/290B), 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144, (215) 842–2000, ext. 4263. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of 38 U.S.C. 1901–1929, VA currently administers four distinct life insurance programs: National Service Life Insurance (NSLI), Veterans’ Special Life Insurance (VSLI), Veterans’ Reopened Insurance (VRI), and Service-Disabled Veterans’ Insurance (S–DVI). As of January 31, 2021, these life insurance programs are providing insurance coverage under 458,424 policies owned by Veterans.

1. Payment of Premiums for Programs Issuing New Policies

Section 1908 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to “prescribe the time and method of payment of the premiums on insurance” for those programs by issuing regulations. VA has implemented this authority in 38 CFR 8.2(c). Section 8.2(c) requires Veteran policyholders to pay premiums on a monthly basis, with the option of paying premiums on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis if the premiums are paid in advance. NSLI, VSLI, and VRI are closed to new issues, and VA does not propose to modify any premium paying requirements pertaining to these life insurance programs. However, S–DVI remains open to new issues and is currently providing coverage to Veterans with service-connected disabilities. More than 275,000 Veteran policyholders are insured under S–DVI, and less than 3,000 pay premiums on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Because very few S–DVI policyholders are paying premiums on a quarterly or semi-annual basis and these payment options add administrative complexity and program costs associated with calculating premiums due for policyholders who elect these payment options, VA proposes to eliminate these two payment options for policyholders receiving future issue of S–DVI. Moreover, research shows that lapsed rates tend to increase with the number of premium payments made each year, with the notable exception of monthly payment modes. *See, e.g.,* Cathy Ho & Nancy Muise, *U.S. Individual Life Persistence: Guaranteed & Simplified Issue—A Joint Study Sponsored by Soc’y of Actuaries & LIMRA* 16 (2013), <https://www.soa.org/globalassets/assets/>