**NOTICE**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7210.978

Effective Date:
September 29, 2026

Cancellation Date:
June 10, 2027

**SUBJ:** Operations Supervisor Fatigue and Coverage Requirements

**1. Purpose of this Notice.** This notice provides requirements for Operations Supervisor fatigue mitigation and coverage expectations. This change establishes guidance intended to reduce extended periods of continuous operational duty, improve opportunities for rest and recovery, and promote supervisory presence during periods of operational demand. Additionally, the change encourages facilities to evaluate staffing and scheduling practices to provide supervisory coverage throughout the majority of operational hours and reduce instances where a single Operations Supervisor is required to work alone for extended periods. These provisions are intended to support safe and effective operational oversight while providing flexibility to implement coverage based on local staffing and traffic requirements.

**2. Audience.** This notice applies to all Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units and all air traffic facilities.

**3. Where can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the Air Traffic Plans and Publications website at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.

**4. Background.** A review of supervisory staffing practices identified instances where Operations Supervisors spent extended periods performing operational duties without relief or worked significant portions of shifts without additional supervisory support. These conditions may increase workload and contribute to fatigue-related performance degradation. To promote effective operational oversight and support fatigue mitigation efforts, Air Traffic Services developed requirements establishing expectations for supervisory breaks and facility coverage during periods of operational activity.

**5. Procedures/Action.** Amend FAA Order JO 7210.3 by changing the following paragraph to read as follows:

**2-6-3. OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR FATIGUE AND COVERAGE**

**a.** Except when operational requirements dictate otherwise, Operations Supervisors must not normally work more than 2 consecutive hours performing operational duties without a break away from operational areas.

**b.** Facilities must maximize supervisory coverage between 0600 and 2300 local time, considering forecasted traffic demand and staffing availability.

**c.** En Route and Consolidated TRACON facilities with one Operations Supervisor scheduled for the midnight shift must maximize supervisory overlap with the evening and day shifts to reduce single supervisor staffing.

***NOTE***−
*These requirements apply to FAA facilities staffed with Operations Supervisors and are not intended for FAA Contract Tower operations staffed by Controllers-in-Charge (CICs).*

Renumber 2-6-3 through 2-6-13 as 2-6-4 through 2-6-14

**6. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations, and Safety; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center for Advanced Aerospace; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

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Date: 2026.09.25 18:01:02 -04'00'

Crystal L. Ball
Director (A), Policy, AJV-P
Mission Support Services
Air Traffic Organization (ATO)