



Interagency Aviation Information Bulletin



No. IA IB 23-06

Date: August 28, 2023

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Subject: Non-Agency, Non-Cooperator UAS TFRs (91.137(a)(1))

Area of Concern: Flight Safety – Airspace conflict

Date for Roll Out: September 1, 2023.

Distribution: All Aviation Operations and Dispatch

Discussion: Due to potential conflicts with Non-Agency, Non-Cooperator UAS Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) associated with Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Special Government Interest (SGI) waivers, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has agreed to actively assist with mitigating any potential adverse impacts. If a conflict arises, there is a coordinated procedure to request an SGI associated BVLOS TFR to be canceled. The planned implementation date is September 1, 2023

Using email notifications, the FAA will inform the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) of SGI issued BVLOS TFRs for states and other jurisdictions that will enable local dispatch centers to identify potential impacts to firefighting operations. If an issue is identified, local dispatch centers will contact the FAA System Operations Support Center (SOSC) to advise of the conflict. Additionally, the SOSC will contact TFR requestor/POC to confirm UAS operations are in progress and request they cease operations within the conflicted airspace. The SOSC will also cancel the associated TFR and notify the local dispatch center. After completing an initial attack, the local dispatch center will notify the SOSC that the airspace is clear, allowing them to reinstate any previously cancelled TFRs as needed.

After the request is approved, , the FAA SOSC will issue a 91.137(a)(1) BVLOS TFR associated with the SGI Waiver to organizations for natural disasters or other emergency situations for UAS BVLOS Operations. Types of operations that may be eligible include firefighting (including wildfire suppression and mitigation), Search and Rescue, utility or other critical infrastructure restoration, damage assessments supporting disaster recover related insurance claims, and media coverage providing crucial information to the public.

The lateral and vertical components will vary in size dependent on the request and will be published in altitude Above Ground Level (AGL). The duration will be limited to daylight hours but could be in effect for multiple days.

The BVLOS UAS TFR requirements within section (a)(1) are more restrictive than wildland fire TFR requirements within section (a)(2) in that a BVLOS UAS TFR prohibits wildland fire agencies from entering that type of TFR.

Recommendations

- Pilots regularly check and monitor TFR's during their flight planning and diverts.
- Pilots obtain all NOTAMs for the flight route prior to launching.
- For Situational Awareness and safety mitigations, the dispatch centers should monitor AFF.gov, [FAA.gov](https://www.faa.gov), [Federal Aviation Administration - Graphic TFR's \(faa.gov\)](https://www.federalaviationadministration.gov/graphics/tfrs), [Skyvector.com](https://www.skyvector.com), [Defense Internet NOTAM Service Defense Internet NOTAM Service \(faa.gov\)](https://www.defenseinternetnotam.com), or ForeFlight.

Procedures

- Do not enter 91.137(a)(1) TFRs.
- If an Initial Attack occurs at the same time / location or area as a 91.137(a)(1) TFR, the respective dispatch center will call the FAA SOSC at 202-267-8276 to inform them that the TFR needs to be cancelled.
- Once the UAS has been reported to be on the ground, the SOSC will cancel the TFR.
- Submit a [SAFECOM](https://www.faa.gov/safecom) if engagement is delayed and report to the National Airspace Coordinator (contact info below).
- Reference internal best practices for procedures.

Guidance

- Agency personnel must continue to use the procedures as outlined in [NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination - PMS 520](https://www.faa.gov/nwccg), to Request an (a)(2) TFR.
- There are no changes to existing agency standards for TFRs and SGI Requests.

For more specific information, please see Coordinated FAA and Agency Procedures included on page 3. For questions, contact: Kim Owczarzak, National Interagency Airspace Coordinator at kimberley.owczarzak@usda.gov.

Coordinated FAA and Agency Procedures**FAA Procedures for understanding**

1. BVLOS TFR requests go to SOSC from outside entities.
2. SOSC validates request by asking the following:
 - a. Jurisdiction
 - b. 107 or COA
 - c. Statement of work if applicant is contractor.
 - d. Launch and Recovery Site
 - e. Cell coverage for duration of flight
3. SOSC publishes BVLOS TFR which includes geographic volumes and applicable pilot contact information.
4. SOSC sends BVLOS TFR notification to COD@blm.gov with Subject Line: (a)(1) City/State

Internal Notification and Coordination Procedures

1. NICC COD sends to respective GACC with follow up phone call.
2. GACC sends notification to respective Local Dispatch Center with follow up phone call.
3. Local Dispatch Center notifies local Aviation Resources of the BVLOS SGI TFR

In the event of a cancellation request

1. Responding Aviation Resource or Dispatch identifies location of incident is in alignment with location of BVLOS SGI TFR.
2. If discovered by Aviation asset request local dispatch to contact SOSC and cancel TFR in order to take aerial suppression action.
3. If discovered by Local Dispatch Center contact responding resources and notify them that deconfliction needs to take place prior to engagement.
4. Contact made by local dispatch to SOSC with cancellation request.
5. SOSC verifies projected duration of suppression action.
6. SOSC contacts outside entity UAS pilot to ground aircraft.
7. SOSC calls local Dispatch Center and verifies UAS is on the ground and TFR is cancelled.
8. If incident evolves into an extended attack, consider a 91.137 (a)(2) Wildland Fire TFR
9. If incident does not evolve, please contact SOSC with an update.

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