

Letter of Agreement
Houston (vZHU) and Miami (vZMA)
Effective February 24, 2018

Purpose

This agreement between Houston (vZHU) and Miami (vZMA) covers coordination procedures and is supplementary to the procedures in FAA JO 7110.65, VATSIM policies and procedures, and any other governing document.

Cancellation

This Letter of Agreement (LOA) cancels the existing LOA between vZHU and vZMA dated May 10, 2006.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. Aircraft shall be established on an airway prior to their transition to neighboring airspace.
2. All handoffs will be conducted by radar handoff functionality.
 - a. All communications handoffs shall occur no later than the control boundary.
 - b. All handoffs shall have a minimum separation of 20 NM in trail. All other separation requirements shall meet or exceed the legal minimums.
3. Receiving controllers shall not alter route or altitude, nor reduce the speed of an aircraft until the aircraft has crossed the control boundary.
4. Transitioning aircraft shall not be permitted to operate an enhanced simulation rate (>1x) across the control boundary.
5. Houston Oceanic has two positions, ZHU_79_FSS (West) and ZHU_72_FSS (East).
 - a. When Houston Oceanic is combined, Miami shall hand aircraft to ZHU_79_FSS.
 - b. When Houston Oceanic is split, Miami shall hand aircraft to ZHU_72_FSS.
6. Miami Center has many sectors but primarily, Houston Oceanic shall handoff aircraft to MIA_3_CTR on 132.250.
 - a. During events, aircraft north of Y240 shall be handed off to MIA_8_CTR on 133.900 and all other aircraft shall be handed off to MIA_6_CTR on 132.200.
 - b. Due to the volatility of Miami Center positions, Houston Oceanic shall validate their handoff sectors as positions open and close.

Deviation

Deviations from the procedures outlined in this LOA are permitted, provided that any deviations are coordinated and approved by the affected controllers. Operational deviations for expeditious flow of traffic are encouraged whenever the operational tempo and climate permit for deviation.

Matthew Kosmoski/
Air Traffic Manager, vZHU

/Brighton McMinn/
Air Traffic Director,
Southern Region

/Fady Botros/
Air Traffic Manager, vZMA