

RTCA, Inc.  
1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1020  
Washington, DC 20036-4001 USA

**Minimum Operational Performance Standards  
(MOPS) for Airborne VOR Receiving Equipment  
Operating Within the Radio Frequency Range of  
108-117.95 MHz**

RTCA DO-196  
November 17, 1986  
Supersedes: RTCA DO-153A and RTCA DO-149

Prepared by: SC-153  
© RTCA, Inc.

Copies of this document may be obtained from

RTCA, Inc.

Telephone: 202-833-9339

Facsimile: 202-833-9434

Internet: [www.rtca.org](http://www.rtca.org)

Please visit the RTCA Online Store for document pricing and ordering information.

## F O R E W O R D

This document was prepared by Special Committee 153 of the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics. It was approved by RTCA on November 17, 1986, and supersedes RTCA/DO-149, "Minimum Operational Characteristics -- Airborne VHF Omnidirectional (VOR) Systems," January 14, 1972 and RTCA DO-153A, "Minimum Performance Standards - Airborne VOR Receiving Equipment Operating Within the Radio Frequency Range of 108-118 Megahertz," November 2, 1978.

RTCA is an association of aeronautical organizations of the United States from both government and industry. Dedicated to the advancement of aeronautics, RTCA seeks sound technical solutions to problems involving the application of electronics and telecommunications to aeronautical operations. Its objective is the resolution of such problems by mutual agreement of its member organizations.

The findings of RTCA are in the nature of recommendations to all organizations concerned. Since RTCA is not an official agency of the United States government, its recommendations may not be regarded as statements of official government policy unless so enunciated by the U. S. government organization or agency having statutory jurisdiction over any matters to which the recommendations relate.

Coordination of these standards was accomplished by RTCA SC-153 with the European Civil Organisation for Civil Aviation Electronics (EUROCAE) WG-7A.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

	Page
FOREWORD .....	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iii
1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE .....	1
1.1 Introduction .....	1
1.2 System Overview .....	2
1.3 Operational Applications .....	2
1.4 Operational Goals .....	3
1.4.1 Sensitivity .....	3
1.4.2 Receiver Selectivity .....	3
1.4.3 Spurious Response and Intermodulation .....	3
1.4.4 Bearing Accuracy .....	3
1.4.5 Warnings .....	4
1.4.6 Interface with Other Aircraft Systems .....	4
1.5 Assumptions .....	4
1.6 Test Procedures .....	4
1.7 Definitions of Terms .....	6
1.8 Reference .....	6
2.0 VOR EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS AND TEST PROCEDURES .....	7
2.1 General Requirements .....	7
2.1.1 Airworthiness .....	7
2.1.2 Intended Function .....	7
2.1.3 Federal Communications Commission Rules .....	7
2.1.4 Fire Protection .....	7
2.1.5 Operation of Controls .....	7
2.1.6 Accessibility of Controls .....	7
2.1.7 Frequency Display .....	8
2.1.8 Effects of Test .....	8
2.2 Minimum Performance Standards Under Standard Test Conditions .....	8
2.2.1 Bearing Accuracy .....	8
2.2.2 Interfering Signals .....	8
2.2.2.1 Adjacent Channel Signals .....	8
2.2.2.2 Cross Modulation .....	9
2.2.2.3 Intermodulation .....	9
2.2.2.4 Multipath Interference .....	11
2.2.2.5 Speech and Identification Components .....	11
2.2.2.6 Doppler VOR Signal .....	11

	Page
2.2.3 Course Deviation Indication .....	11
2.2.4 Ambiguity Indication (TO-FROM) .....	12
2.2.5 Non-Manual VOR Bearing Indication .....	12
2.2.6 Warnings .....	12
2.2.7 Spurious Response .....	13
2.2.8 Desensitization .....	13
2.2.9 VOICE/IDENT Audio Output Level .....	13
2.2.10 VOICE/IDENT Audio Frequency Response .....	14
2.2.11 VOICE/IDENT Audio Distortion .....	14
2.2.12 VOICE/IDENT Audio Output Noise Level .....	14
2.2.13 AGC Characteristics .....	14
2.2.14 Emission of Radio Frequency Energy .....	15
2.2.15 Receiver Voltage Standing Wave Ratio .....	15
2.2.16 Antenna Efficiency .....	15
2.2.17 Antenna Polarization .....	15
2.2.18 Antenna VSWR .....	16
2.3 Equipment Performance - Environmental Conditions .....	17
2.3.1 Temperature and Altitude Tests .....	17
2.3.1.1 Low Temperature Test .....	18
2.3.1.2 High Temperature Test .....	18
2.3.1.3 Altitude Tests .....	18
2.3.1.4 Decompression Test .....	19
2.3.1.5 Overpressure Test .....	19
2.3.2 Temperature Variation Test .....	19
2.3.3 Humidity Test .....	20
2.3.4 Shock Tests .....	20
2.3.4.1 Operational Shocks .....	20
2.3.4.2 Crash Safety Shocks .....	20
2.3.5 Vibration Tests .....	20
2.3.6 Explosion Test .....	21
2.3.7 Waterproofness Test .....	21
2.3.7.1 Drip Proof Test .....	21
2.3.7.2 Spray Proof Test .....	21
2.3.8 Fluids Susceptibility Tests .....	21
2.3.8.1 Spray Test .....	21
2.3.8.2 Immersion Test .....	22
2.3.9 Sand and Dust Test .....	22
2.3.10 Fungus Resistance Test .....	22
2.3.11 Salt Spray Test .....	23
2.3.12 Magnetic Effect Test .....	23
2.3.13 Power Input Tests .....	23

	Page
2.3.13.1 Normal Operating Conditions .....	23
2.3.13.2 Abnormal Operating Conditions .....	23
2.3.14 Voltage Spike Conducted Test .....	23
2.3.14.1 Voltage Spike Category A Requirements .....	23
2.3.14.2 Voltage Spike Category B Requirements .....	24
2.3.15 Audio Frequency Conducted Susceptibility Test .....	24
2.3.16 Induced Signal Susceptibility Test .....	24
2.3.17 Radio Frequency Susceptibility Test (Radiated and Conducted) .....	24
2.3.18 Emission of Radio Frequency Energy Test .....	24
2.4 Equipment Test Procedures .....	25
2.4.1 Definitions of Terms and Conditions of Tests .....	25
2.4.2 Description of Test Equipment .....	27
2.4.3 Detailed Test Procedures .....	28
2.4.3.1 Bearing Accuracy .....	29
2.4.3.2 Interfering Signals .....	31
2.4.3.3 Course Deviation Indication .....	39
2.4.3.4 Ambiguity Indication (TO-FROM) .....	39
2.4.3.5 Non-Manual VOR Bearing Indication .....	39
2.4.3.6 Warnings .....	40
2.4.3.7 Spurious Response .....	40
2.4.3.8 Desensitization .....	40
2.4.3.9 VOICE/IDENT Audio Output Level .....	41
2.4.3.10 VOICE/IDENT Audio Frequency Response .....	43
2.4.3.11 VOICE/IDENT Audio Distortion .....	44
2.4.3.12 VOICE/IDENT Audio Output Noise Level .....	44
2.4.3.13 AGC Characteristics .....	44
2.4.3.14 Emission of Radio Frequency Energy .....	45
2.4.3.15 Receiver VSWR .....	45
2.4.3.16 Antenna Efficiency .....	45
2.4.3.17 Antenna Polarization .....	46
2.4.3.18 Antenna VSWR .....	46
3.0 INSTALLED EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE .....	49
3.1 Equipment Installation .....	49
3.1.1 Equipment Accessibility .....	49
3.1.2 Aircraft Environment .....	49
3.1.3 Display Visibility .....	49
3.1.4 Antenna Location Considerations .....	49
3.1.5 Failure Protection .....	49
3.1.6 Inadvertent Turnoff .....	49
3.1.7 Aircraft Power Source .....	49

	Page
3.2 Installed Equipment Performance Requirements .....	50
3.2.1 Interference Effects .....	50
3.3 Conditions of Test .....	50
3.3.1 Power Input .....	50
3.3.2 Associated Equipment or Systems .....	50
3.3.3 Environment .....	50
3.3.4 Adjustment of Equipment .....	50
3.4 Test Procedures for Installed Equipment Performance .....	51
3.4.1 Ground Test Procedures .....	51
3.4.1.1 Conformity Inspection .....	51
3.4.1.2 Equipment Function .....	51
3.4.1.3 Interference Effects .....	51
3.4.1.4 Power Supply Fluctuations .....	51
3.4.1.5 Equipment Accessibility .....	52
3.4.2 Flight Test Procedures .....	52
3.4.2.1 Displayed Data Readability .....	52
3.4.2.2 Interference Effects .....	52
4.0 EQUIPMENT OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS .....	53
4.1 Required Operational Performance Requirements .....	53
4.1.1 Power Input .....	53
4.1.2 Equipment Operating Modes .....	53
4.2 Test Procedures for Operational Performance Requirements .....	53
4.2.1 Power Input .....	53
4.2.2 Equipment Operating Modes .....	53
MEMBERSHIP .....	55
APPENDIX A VOR 9,960 Hz Harmonic Generator and AM Modulator and Signal Mixer	
APPENDIX B Statistical Procedure for the Determination of VOR Bearing Accuracy	
APPENDIX C Receiver RF Input Voltage (Hard & Easy Microvolts)	

## 1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

### 1.1 Introduction

This document contains minimum operational performance standards for airborne VHF Omnidirectional Range (VOR) receiving equipment. These standards specify system characteristics that should be useful to designers, manufacturers, installers and users of the equipment.

Compliance with these standards is recommended as one means of assuring that the equipment will perform its intended function satisfactorily under all conditions normally encountered in routine operations.

Any regulatory application of this document is the sole responsibility of appropriate governmental agencies.

Section 1.0 provides information needed to understand the rationale for equipment characteristics and requirements stated in the remaining sections. It describes typical equipment applications and operational goals and establishes the basis for the standards stated in Sections 2.0 through 4.0. Definitions and assumptions essential to proper understanding of this document are also provided in Section 1.0.

Section 2.0 contains the minimum performance standards for the equipment. These standards specify the required performance under standard and environmental conditions. Also included are recommended bench test procedures necessary to demonstrate equipment compliance with the stated minimum requirements.

Section 3.0 describes the performance required of the installed equipment. Tests for the installed equipment are included when performance cannot be adequately determined through bench testing.

Section 4.0 describes the operational performance characteristics for equipment installations and defines conditions that will assure the equipment user that operations can be conducted safely and reliably in the expected operational environment.

This document considers an equipment configuration consisting of: Antenna system(s), transmission lines, radio receiver, omni converter and a course deviation indication display. Additional functions and components that refer to expanded equipment capabilities are identified as optional features.

The word "system" as used in this document refers to the VOR system. It includes all portions of both the VOR ground transmitter and the VOR airborne equipment.

The word "equipment" as used in this document includes all components and units necessary for the system to properly perform