**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**
**AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER**
**SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**
**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

ISSUED: July 31, 2013 EFFECTIVE: July 31, 2013

SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL TOWER LETTER TO AIRMAN NO. 13-03

SUBJECT: Practice Instrument Approaches Within the San Antonio Area.

CANCELLATION: July 31, 2015

To enhance air safety, it is FAA policy to provide for separation of practice instrument approaches at locations where approach control facilities are located, and as resources permit. Practice instrument approaches are instrument approaches by either a VFR aircraft not on an IFR flight plan or an aircraft on an IFR flight plan. Pilot requests to practice instrument approaches may be approved by ATC subject to traffic and workload conditions.

It must be clearly understood, that even though the controller may be providing separation, pilots on VFR flight plans are required to comply with basic visual flight rules (FAR 91.155). Application of ATC procedures does not relieve IFR and VFR pilots of their responsibility to see and avoid other traffic while operating in VFR conditions. In addition to the normal IFR separation minima (which includes visual separation) during VFR conditions, 500 feet vertical separation may be applied between VFR and IFR aircraft. Pilots desiring practice instrument approaches should always state "practice" when making a request to ATC. Controllers will instruct VFR aircraft requesting a practice instrument approach to maintain VFR. This is to preclude misunderstanding between the pilot and controller as to the status of the aircraft. If the pilot wishes to proceed in accordance with IFR, they must specifically request and obtain an IFR clearance.

When authorization is granted to practice the instrument approach, separation services will begin at the point where the approach clearance becomes effective. If the pilot of a VFR aircraft desires to fly a practice missed approach; the pilot must specifically request and receive permission from the air traffic controller.

Listed below are the airports where separation to VFR aircraft practicing instrument approaches is provided by San Antonio Approach Control.

| | |
|---|---|
| San Antonio | Stinson Field |
| Kelly Field | Castroville |
| Randolph AFB | Pleasanton |
| New Braunfels | Boerne Stage Field |

For further information, pilots should refer to the AIM, or call (210) 805-5507, if you have any questions. We appreciate your continued cooperation in making aviation as safe as possible.

Henry Beck
Air Traffic Manager
San Antonio Tower