1 MINIMUM FLIGHT LEVEL / ALTITUDE

1.1 AERONAUTICAL CHARTS

The Route Manual and charts provide detailed information regarding minimum flight level and altitude requirements. Specifications are detailed on the Enroute, Area, and Standard Instrument Departure (SID)/Standard Terminal Arrival Route (STAR) charts. For further information refer to the Route Manual / Introduction /Chart Legend.

1.2 OPERATIONAL FLIGHT PLAN

The OFP defines the required minimum altitudes between waypoints for each segment of the route.

1.2.1 Enroute

The minimum enroute altitude for on-airway operations will be the higher of either the Minimum Enroute Altitude (MEA) or the Minimum Obstacle Clearance Altitude (MOCA).

For operations that deviate from the OFP, such as diversions due to enroute weather, the aircraft must maintain an altitude that is the greater of either the Area Minimum Altitude (AMA) or MOCA, when published. In the absence of published AMA or MOCA values, the Minimum Off Route Altitude (MORA) must be used as the minimum altitude.

1.2.2 Terminal Area

During flight in terminal areas, except for phases of takeoff, departure, approach, and landing, the Minimum Sector Altitude (MSA) is the lowest permissible altitude. When receiving radar vectors, the aircraft should adhere to the altitude clearances provided by Air Traffic Control (ATC).

1.2.3 Temperature Corrections

The OFP does not account for temperature deviations from the International Standard Atmosphere (ISA). Altitude corrections for low temperatures must be applied to all minimum enroute altitudes and flight levels when temperatures differ significantly from the standard atmosphere temperatures. For guidance on cold weather corrections, consult Section14.2, Cold Weather Operations.

1.2.4 Abnormal Operations

In the event of depressurization or engine failure, the aircraft must descend to the minimum enroute altitude as defined in the OFP's depressurization or drift down procedure schedule. Flight crews should ensure they are familiar with the procedures and topographical considerations along their route. For further information, refer to the OFP Specifications in Appendix A.