

Safety Bulletin

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The Importance of Meeting Altitude Requirements on STARS

Standard Arrival Routes (STARs) are designed to enable the safe and efficient arrival of aircraft to Airports, whilst also facilitating departures from that location. The airspace around STARs is generally quite complex due to their proximity to the airport they service and is a high workload area for both pilots and controllers – with workload frequently increased by holding requirements.

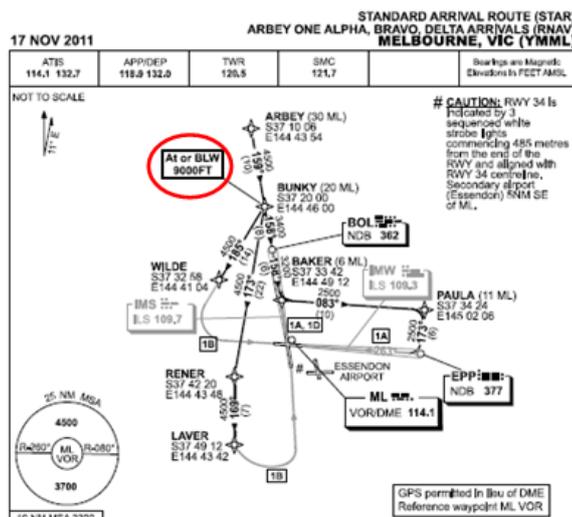
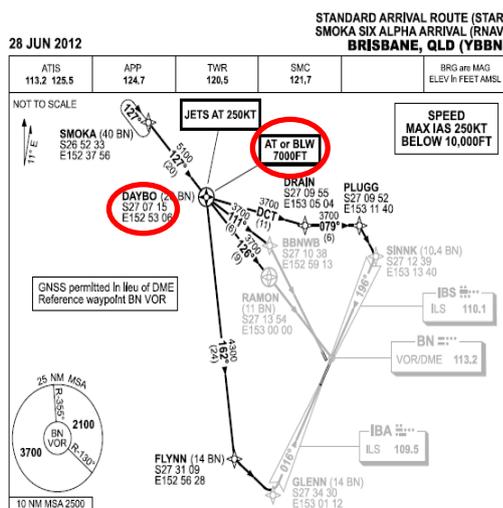
Similar to instrument approaches, the height requirements on STARs are a critical element of the approach. Airservices has noticed an increasing trend for aircraft to not meet these requirements; which not only impacts their own approach, but also affects other aircraft inbound to or outbound from the respective airport. In the majority of situations ATC will become aware of the aircraft's inability to meet the altitude restriction with sufficient time to amend their clearance however this further impacts on traffic complexity and workload.

Examples of STARs where altitude requirements are frequently not being met include:

- Brisbane SMOKA STAR - Requirement for aircraft to be 'at or below 7000ft' at DAYBO
- Brisbane MALENY STAR – Requirement for aircraft to be 'at or below 6000ft' at BURPA
- Melbourne ARBEY STAR - Requirement for aircraft to be 'at or below 9000ft' at BUNKY

Although Airservices continues to look at its own procedures to ascertain if improvements can be made internally, it is important that pilots plan their descent and/or holding to enable them to meet the altitude requirements on their assigned STAR.

If you have concerns regarding an ATC clearance or are unable to comply with an instruction, ensure you advise the controller **immediately**.



For further information please contact Airservices Safety Liaison:

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