



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

MAR 20 2017

Mr. Shyam Jha
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Dear Mr. Jha,

Thank you for your inquiry to Margaret Gilligan, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, regarding "Where is the Upwind Leg." Ms. Gilligan asked me to respond to your inquiry.

I reviewed your article and shared it with the office responsible for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aeronautical Information Manual, as well as the office responsible for the Air Traffic Procedure Order relative to phraseology. They have noted that usage of the term, "departure leg" is not consistent within these documents.

Also upon our review, it was discovered that the departure leg and upwind leg were considered to be virtually the same, though clearly they are not. Therefore, we will initiate an update to correct any inconsistencies in FAA informational documents.

We will collaborate with the Air Traffic Organization and Flight Standards Service to correct any inconsistencies and align the affected documents, and will coordinate and publish any updates as soon as possible. Thank you for your article and your interest in aviation safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Viola".

James A. Viola
Manager, General Aviation and Commercial Division
Flight Standards Service