

“When Ready” vs “At Pilot’s Discretion”

This is a reissue of Briefing Leaflet 14ATSBL03 for clarification:

In many parts of the world the phrases “When Ready” and “At Pilot’s Discretion” are used interchangeably in both voice and data link communications, indicating the associated instruction/clearance may be complied with or executed at any future time when the pilot is prepared to do so.

In US airspace only, and in the context of a climb/descend clearance, “At Pilot’s Discretion” also provides the flexibility for intermediate level offs after the climb or descent has been initiated by the pilot. However, a pilot may not return to any previously vacated levels. This option for an intermediate level off is **ONLY PERMITTED IN US AIRSPACE**. In all other airspace, the Pilot’s Discretion climb or descent is continuous.