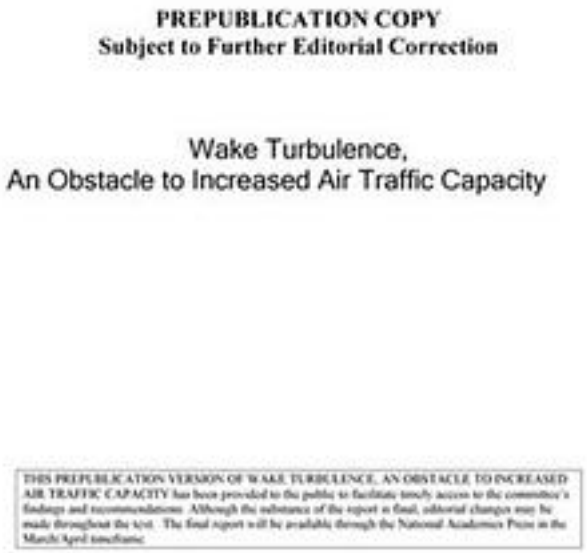
Wake Turbulence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Wake Turbulence,
An Obstacle to Increased Air Traffic Capacity

THIS PREPUBLICATION VERSION OF WAKE TURBULENCE, AN OBSTACLE TO INCREASED AIR TRAFFIC CAPACITY has been provided to the public to facilitate timely access to the committee's findings and recommendations. Although the substance of the report is final, editorial changes may be made throughout the text. The final report will be available through the National Academies Press in the March/April timeframe.

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Without major changes, the current air transportation system will be unable to accommodate the expected increase in demand by 2025. One proposal to address this problem is to use the Global Positioning System to enable aircraft to fly more closely

spaced. This approach, however, might be limited by the wake turbulence problem, which can be a safety hazard when smaller aircraft follow relatively larger aircraft too closely. To examine how this potential hazard might be reduced, Congress in 2005 directed NASA to request a study from the NRC to assess the federal wake turbulence R&D program. This book provides a description of the problem, an assessment of the organizational challenges to addressing wake turbulence, an analysis of the technical challenges in wake turbulence, and a proposal for a wake turbulence program plan. A series of recommendations for addressing the wake turbulence challenge are also given.

作者介绍:

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