



## Flight Controls System Description

## Chapter 9 Section 20

### Introduction

The primary flight control system uses conventional control wheel, column and pedals linked mechanically to hydraulic power control units which command the primary flight control surfaces; ailerons, elevators and rudder. The flight controls are powered by redundant hydraulic sources; system A and system B. Either hydraulic system can operate all primary flight controls. The ailerons and elevators may be operated manually if required. The rudder may be operated by the standby hydraulic system if system A and system B pressure is not available.

The secondary flight controls, high lift devices consisting of Trailing Edge (TE) flaps and Leading Edge (LE) flaps and slats (LE devices), are powered by hydraulic system B. In the event hydraulic system B fails, the TE flaps can be operated electrically. Under certain conditions the Power Transfer Unit (PTU) automatically powers the LE devices. (Refer to Chapter 13, Hydraulics, Power Transfer Unit). They can also be extended using standby hydraulic pressure.

### Pilot Controls

The pilot controls consist of:

- two control columns
- two control wheels
- two pairs of rudder pedals
- SPEED BRAKE lever
- FLAP lever
- STAB TRIM cutout switches
- STAB TRIM override switch
- stabilizer trim switches
- stabilizer trim wheel
- AILERON trim switches
- RUDDER trim control
- YAW DAMPER switch
- ALTERNATE FLAPS master switch
- alternate flaps position switch
- FLT CONTROL switches
- flight SPOILER switches

The columns and wheels are connected through transfer mechanisms which allow the pilots to bypass a jammed control or surface.

There is a rigid connection between both pairs of rudder pedals.

The SPEED BRAKE lever allows manual or automatic symmetric actuation of the spoilers.

## Pitch Control

The pitch control surfaces consist of hydraulically powered elevators and an electrically powered stabilizer. The elevators are controlled by forward or aft movement of the control column. The stabilizer is controlled by autopilot trim or manual trim.

## Elevators

The elevators provide pitch control around the airplane's lateral axis. The elevators are positioned by the pilots' control columns. The A and B FLT CONTROL switches control hydraulic shutoff valves for the elevators.

Cables connect the pilots' control columns to elevator Power Control Units (PCUs) which are powered by hydraulic system A and B. The elevators are interconnected by a torque tube. With loss of hydraulic system A and B the elevators can be mechanically positioned by forward or aft movement of the pilots' control columns. Control forces are higher due to friction and aerodynamic loads.

## Elevator Control Column Override Mechanism

In the event of a control column jam, an override mechanism allows the control columns to be physically separated. Applying force against the jam will breakout either the Captain's or First Officer's control column. Whichever column moves freely after the breakout can provide adequate elevator control.

Although total available elevator travel is significantly reduced, there is sufficient elevator travel available for landing flare. Column forces are higher and exceed those experienced during manual reversion. If the jam exists during the landing phase, higher forces are required to generate sufficient elevator control to flare for landing. Stabilizer trim is available to counteract the sustained control column force.

## Elevator Feel System

The elevator feel computer provides simulated aerodynamic forces using airspeed (from the elevator pitot system) and stabilizer position. Feel is transmitted to the control columns by the elevator feel and centering unit. To operate the feel system the elevator feel computer uses either hydraulic system A or B pressure, whichever is higher. When either hydraulic system or elevator feel pitot system fails, excessive differential hydraulic pressure is sensed in the elevator feel computer and the FEEL DIFF PRESS light illuminates.

**737 Flight Crew Operations Manual****Mach Trim System**

A Mach trim system provides speed stability at the higher Mach numbers. Mach trim is automatically accomplished above Mach .615 by adjusting the elevators with respect to the stabilizer as speed increases. The flight control computers use Mach information from the ADIRU to compute a Mach trim actuator position. The Mach trim actuator repositions the elevator feel and centering unit which adjusts the control column neutral position.

**Stabilizer**

The horizontal stabilizer is positioned by a single electric trim motor controlled through either the stab trim switches on the control wheel or autopilot trim. The stabilizer may also be positioned by manually rotating the stabilizer trim wheel.

**Stabilizer Trim**

Stabilizer trim switches on each control wheel actuate the electric trim motor through the main electric stabilizer trim circuit when the airplane is flown manually. With the autopilot engaged, stabilizer trim is accomplished through the autopilot stabilizer trim circuit. The main electric and autopilot stabilizer trim have two speed modes: high speed with flaps extended and low speed with flaps retracted. If the autopilot is engaged, actuating either pair of stabilizer trim switches automatically disengages the autopilot. The stabilizer trim wheels rotate whenever electric stabilizer trim is actuated.

The STAB TRIM MAIN ELECT cutout switch and the STAB TRIM AUTOPILOT cutout switch, located on the control stand, are provided to allow the autopilot or main electric trim inputs to be disconnected from the stabilizer trim motor.

Control column actuated stabilizer trim cutout switches stop operation of the main electric and autopilot trim when the control column movement opposes trim direction. When the STAB TRIM override switch is positioned to OVERRIDE, electric trim can be used regardless of control column position.

Manual stabilizer control is accomplished through cables which allow the pilot to position the stabilizer by rotating the stabilizer trim wheels. The stabilizer is held in position by two independent brake systems. Manual rotation of the trim wheels can be used to override autopilot or main electric trim. The effort required to manually rotate the stabilizer trim wheels may be higher under certain flight conditions. Grasping the stabilizer trim wheel will stop stabilizer motion.

## Stabilizer Trim Operation with Forward or Aft CG

In the event the stabilizer is trimmed to the end of the electrical trim limits, additional trim is available through the use of the manual trim wheels. If manual trim is used to position the stabilizer beyond the electrical trim limits, the stabilizer trim switches may be used to return the stabilizer to electrical trim limits.

## Stabilizer Position Indication and Green Band

Stabilizer position is displayed in units on two STAB TRIM indicators located inboard of each stabilizer trim wheel. The STAB TRIM indicators also display the TAKEOFF green band indication.

The trim authority for each mode of trim is limited to:

- Main Electric Trim
  - flaps extended 0.05 to 14.5 units
  - flaps retracted 3.95 to 14.5 units
- Autopilot Trim 0.05 to 14.5 units
- Manual Trim -0.20 to 16.9 units.

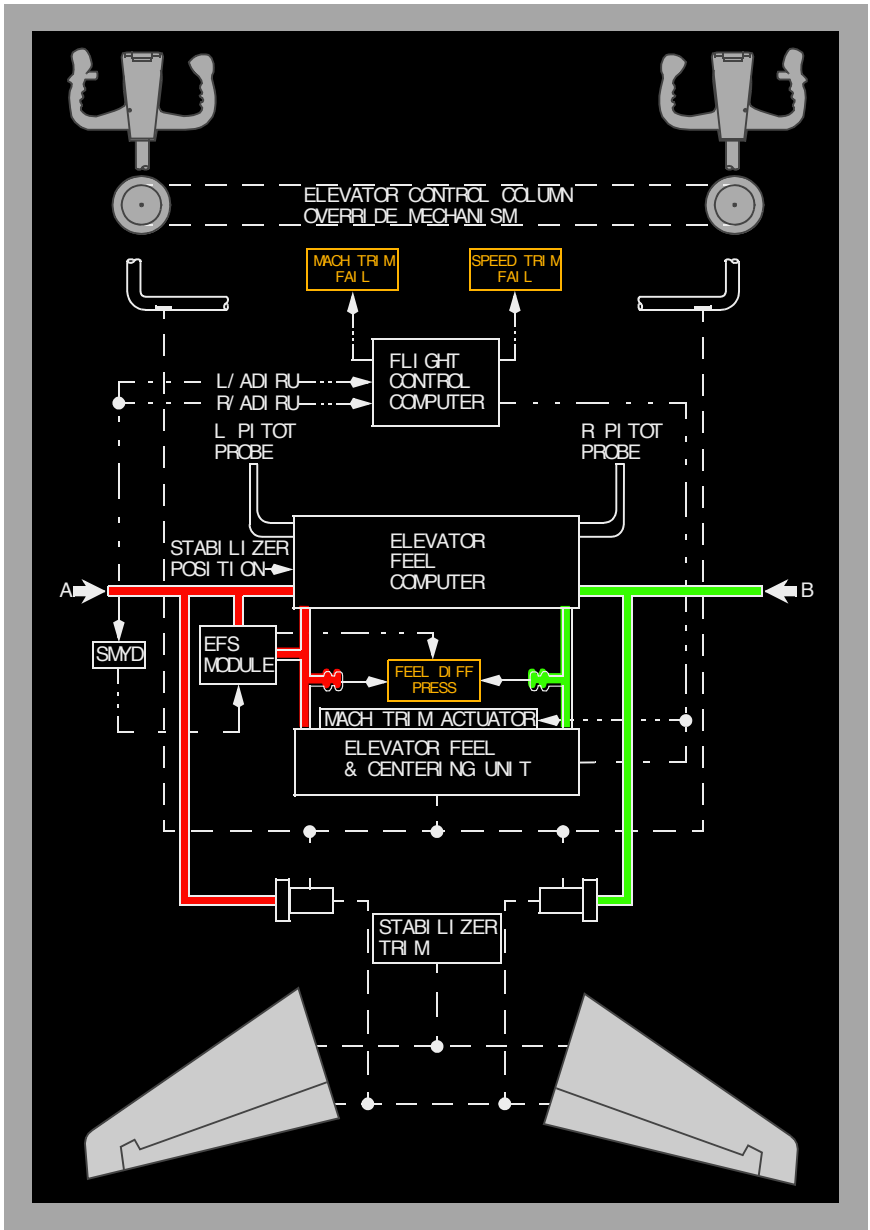
The green band range of the STAB TRIM indicator shows the takeoff trim range. An intermittent horn sounds if takeoff is attempted with the stabilizer trim outside the takeoff trim range.

## Speed Trim System

The Speed Trim System (STS) is a speed stability augmentation system designed to improve flight characteristics during operations with a low gross weight, aft center of gravity and high thrust when the autopilot is not engaged. The purpose of the STS is to return the airplane to a trimmed speed by commanding the stabilizer in a direction opposite the speed change. The STS monitors inputs of stabilizer position, thrust lever position, airspeed and vertical speed and then trims the stabilizer using the autopilot stabilizer trim. As the airplane speed increases or decreases from the trimmed speed, the stabilizer is commanded in the direction to return the airplane to the trimmed speed. This increases control column forces to force the airplane to return to the trimmed speed. As the airplane returns to the trimmed speed, the STS commanded stabilizer movement is removed.

STS operates most frequently during takeoffs, climb and go-arounds. Conditions for speed trim operation are listed below:

- STS Mach gain is fully enabled between 100 KIAS and Mach 0.60 with a fadeout to zero by Mach 0.68
- 5 seconds following release of trim switches
- Autopilot not engaged
- Sensing of trim requirement
- 10 seconds after takeoff

**737 Flight Crew Operations Manual**
**Pitch Control Schematic**


## Stall Identification

Stall identification and **control** is enhanced by the yaw damper, the Elevator Feel Shift (EFS) module and the speed trim system. **These three systems work together to help the pilot identify and prevent further movement into a stall condition.**

During **high AOA** operations, the Stall Management/Yaw Damper (SMYD) reduces yaw damper commanded rudder movement.

The EFS module **increases** hydraulic system A pressure to the elevator feel and centering unit during a stall. **This increases forward control column force** to approximately **four times normal feel** pressure. The EFS module is armed whenever an inhibit condition is not present. Inhibit conditions are: on the ground, radio altitude less than 100 feet and autopilot engaged. However, if EFS is active when descending through 100 feet RA, it remains active until AOA is reduced below approximately stickshaker threshold. There are no flight deck indications that the system is properly armed or activated.

As airspeed decreases towards stall speed, the **speed trim system** **trims the stabilizer nose down and enables trim above stickshaker AOA.** With this trim schedule the pilot **must pull more** aft column to stall the airplane. With the column aft, the amount of column force increase **with the onset of EFS module is more pronounced.**