

#### **APPENDIX A**

### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## A

**Above Ground Level:** The elevation of a point or surface above the ground.

Accelerate-Stop Distance Available (ASDA):

See declared distances.

Advisory Circular: External publications issued by the FAA consisting of non-regulatory material provid-

ing for the recommendations relative to a policy, guidance and information relative

to a specific aviation subject.

Air Carrier: An operator which: (1) performs at least five round trips per week between two or

more points and publishes flight schedules which specify the times, days of the week, and places between which such flights are performed; or (2) transports mail by air pursuant to a current contract with the U.S. Postal Service. Certified in accordance

with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Parts 121 and 127.

Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC):

A facility established to provide air traffic control service to aircraft operating on an IFR

flight plan within controlled airspace and principally during the enroute phase of flight.

Air Taxi: An air carrier certificated in accordance with FAR Part 121 and FAR Part 135 and

authorized to provide, on demand, public transportation of persons and property by

aircraft. Generally operates small aircraft "for hire" for specific trips.

Air Traffic Control: A service operated by an appropriate organization for the purpose of providing for

the safe, orderly, and expeditious flow of air traffic.

Air Traffic Control System Command Center:

A facility operated by the FAA which is responsible for the central flow control, the

central altitude reservation system, the airport reservation position system, and the air

traffic service contingency command for the air traffic control system.

Air Traffic Hub: A categorization of commercial service airports or group of commercial service

airports in a metropolitan or urban area based upon the proportion of annual national enplanements existing at the airport or airports. The categories are large hub, medium hub, small hub, or non-hub. It forms the basis for the apportionment of

entitlement funds.

Air Transport Association Of America:

An organization consisting of the principal U.S. airlines that represents the interests of the airline industry on major aviation issues before federal, state, and local government bodies. It promotes air transportation safety by coordinating industry and governmental safety programs and it serves as a focal point for industry efforts to standardize practices and enhance the efficiency of the air transportation system.

Aircraft: A transportation vehicle that is used or intended for use for flight.

Aircraft Approach Category: A grouping of aircraft based on 1.3 times the stall speed in their landing configuration

at their maximum certificated landing weight. The categories are as follows:

· Category A: Speed less than 91 knots.

· Category B: Speed 91 knots or more, but less than 121 knots.

• Category C: Speed 121 knots or more, but less than 141 knots.



• Category D: Speed 141 knots or more, but less than 166 knots.

· Category E: Speed greater than 166 knots

Aircraft Operation: The landing, takeoff, or touch-and-go procedure by an aircraft on a runway at

an airport.

Aircraft Operations Area (AOA): A restricted and secure area on the airport property designed to protect all aspects

related to aircraft operations.

Aircraft Owners And Pilots Association:

A private organization serving the interests and needs of general aviation pilots and

aircraft owners.

Aircraft Rescue And Fire Fighting:

A facility located at an airport that provides emergency vehicles, extinguishing

agents, and personnel responsible for minimizing the impacts of an aircraft accident

or incident.

Airfield: The portion of an airport which contains the facilities necessary for the operation

of aircraft.

Airline Hub: An airport at which an airline concentrates a significant portion of its activity and

which often has a significant amount of connecting traffic.

Airplane Design Group (ADG): A grouping of aircraft based upon wingspan. The groups are as follows:

· Group I: Up to but not including 49 feet.

· Group II: 49 feet up to but not including 79 feet.

· Group III: 79 feet up to but not including 118 feet.

• Group IV: 118 feet up to but not including 171 feet.

• Group V: 171 feet up to but not including 214 feet.

• Group VI: 214 feet or greater.

Airport Authority: A quasi-governmental public organization responsible for setting the policies

governing the management and operation of an airport or system of airports under

its jurisdiction.

Airport Beacon: A navigational aid located at an airport which

displays a rotating light beam to identify

whether an airport is lighted.

Airport Capital Improvement Plan:

The planning program used by the Federal Aviation Administration to identify, prioritize, and distribute funds for airport development and the needs of the National Airspace System to meet specified national goals

and objectives.

Airport Elevation: The highest point on the runway system at an

airport expressed in feet above mean sea

level (MSL).

Airport Improvement Program: A program authorized by the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 that

provides funding for airport planning and development.

Airport Layout Drawing (ALD): The drawing of the airport showing the layout of existing and proposed airport facilities.



Airport Layout Plan (ALP): A scaled drawing of the existing and planned land and facilities necessary for the

operation and development of the airport.

Airport Layout Plan Drawing Set: A set of technical drawings depicting the current and future airport conditions. The

individual sheets comprising the set can vary with the complexities of the airport, but the FAA-required drawings include the Airport Layout Plan (sometimes referred to as the Airport Layout Drawing (ALD), the Airport Airspace Drawing, and the Inner Portion of the Approach Surface Drawing, On-Airport Land Use Drawing, and Property Map.

Airport Master Plan: A local planning document that serves as a guide for the long-term development of

an airport.

Airport Movement Area Safety System:

A system that provides automated alerts and warnings of potential runway incursions

or other hazardous aircraft movement events.

Airport Obstruction Chart: A scaled drawing depicting the Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77 surfaces, a

representation of objects that penetrate these surfaces, runway, taxiway, and ramp areas, navigational aids, buildings, roads and other detail in the vicinity of an airport.

Airport Reference Code (ARC): A coding system used to relate airport design criteria to the operational (Aircraft

Approach Category) to the physical characteristics (Airplane Design Group) of the

airplanes intended to operate at the airport.

Airport Reference Point (ARP): The latitude and longitude of the approximate center of the airport.

Airport Sponsor: The entity that is legally responsible for the management and operation of an airport,

including the fulfillment of the requirements of laws and regulations related thereto.

**Airport Surface Detection Equipment:** 

A radar system that provides air traffic controllers with a visual representation of the

movement of aircraft and other vehicles on the ground on the airfield at an airport.

Airport Surveillance Radar: The primary radar located at an airport or in an air traffic control terminal area that

receives a signal at an antenna and transmits the signal to air traffic control display equipment defining the location of aircraft in the air. The signal provides only the

azimuth and range of aircraft from the location of the antenna.

Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT):

A central operations facility in the terminal air traffic control system, consisting of a tower, including an associated instrument flight rule (IFR) room if radar equipped, using air/ground communications and/or radar, visual signaling and other devices to

provide safe and expeditious movement of terminal air traffic.

Airside: The portion of an airport that contains the facilities necessary for the operation

of aircraft.

Airspace: The volume of space above the surface of the ground that is provided for the

operation of aircraft.

Alert Area: See special-use airspace.

Altitude: The vertical distance measured in feet above mean sea level.

Annual Instrument Approach (AIA):

An approach to an airport with the intent to land by an aircraft in accordance with an IFR flight plan when visibility is less than three miles and/or when the ceiling is at or

below the minimum initial approach altitude.



**Approach Lighting System** 

Approach Lighting System (ALS): An airport lighting facility which provides

visual guidance to landing aircraft by radiating light beams by which the pilot aligns the aircraft with the extended centerline of the runway on final approach

and landing.

**Approach Minimums:** The altitude below which an aircraft may

not descend while on an IFR approach unless the pilot has the runway in sight.

**Approach Surface:** An imaginary obstruction limiting surface

defined in FAR Part 77 which is longitudinally centered on an extended runway centerline and extends outward and upward from the primary surface at each end of a runway at a designated slope and distance based upon the type of

available or planned approach by aircraft to a runway.

**Apron:** A specified portion of the airfield used for passenger, cargo or freight loading and

unloading, aircraft parking, and the refueling, maintenance and servicing of aircraft.

**Area Navigation:**The air navigation procedure that provides the capability to establish and maintain a

flight path on an arbitrary course that remains within the coverage area of naviga-

tional sources being used.

Automated Terminal Information Service (ATIS):

The continuous broadcast of recorded non-control information at towered airports.

Information typically includes wind speed, direction, and runway in use.

Automated Surface Observation System (ASOS):

A reporting system that provides frequent airport ground surface weather observa-

tion data through digitized voice broadcasts and printed reports.

Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS):

Equipment used to automatically record weather conditions (i.e., cloud height,

visibility, wind speed and direction, temperature, dew point, etc.)

Automatic Direction Finder (ADF):

An aircraft radio navigation system which senses and indicates the direction to a

non-directional radio beacon (NDB) ground transmitter.

Avigation Easement: A contractual right or a property interest in land over which a right of unobstructed

flight in the airspace is established.

Azimuth: Horizontal direction expressed as the angular distance between true north and the

direction of a fixed point (as the observer's heading).

B

Base Leg: A flight path at right angles to the landing runway off its approach end. The base leg

normally extends from the downwind leg to the intersection of the extended runway

centerline. See "traffic pattern."

**Based Aircraft:** The general aviation aircraft that use a specific airport as a home base.

**Bearing:** The horizontal direction to or from any point, usually measured clockwise from true

north or magnetic north.



Blast Fence: A barrier used to divert or dissipate jet blast or

propeller wash.

Blast Pad: A prepared surface adjacent to the end of a

runway for the purpose of eliminating the erosion of the ground surface by the wind forces produced by airplanes at the initiation

of takeoff operations.

Building Restriction Line (BRL): A line which identifies suitable building area

locations on the airport.





Capital Improvement Plan: The planning program used by the Federal Aviation Administration to identify,

prioritize, and distribute Airport Improvement Program funds for airport development and the needs of the National Airspace System to meet specified national goals

and objectives.

Cargo Service Airport: An airport served by aircraft providing air transportation of property only, including

mail, with an annual aggregate landed weight of at least 100,000,000 pounds.

Ceiling: The height above the ground surface to the location of the lowest layer of clouds

which is reported as either broken or overcast.

**Circling Approach:** A maneuver initiated by the pilot to align the aircraft with the runway for landing

when flying a predetermined circling instrument approach under IFR.

Class A Airspace: See Controlled Airspace.

Class B Airspace: See Controlled Airspace.

Class C Airspace: See Controlled Airspace.

Class D Airspace: See Controlled Airspace.

Class E Airspace: See Controlled Airspace.

Class G Airspace: See Controlled Airspace.

Clear Zone: See Runway Protection Zone.

Commercial Service Airport: A public airport providing scheduled passenger service that enplanes at least 2,500

annual passengers.

Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF):

A radio frequency identified in the appropriate aeronautical chart which is designated for the purpose of transmitting airport advisory information and procedures while

operating to or from an uncontrolled airport.

Compass Locator (LOM): A low power, low/medium frequency radio-beacon installed in conjunction with the

instrument landing system at one or two of the marker sites.

Conical Surface: An imaginary obstruction-limiting surface defined in FAR Part 77 that extends from the

edge of the horizontal surface outward and upward at a slope of 20 to 1 for a

horizontal distance of 4,000 feet.

Controlled Airport: An airport that has an operating airport traffic control tower.

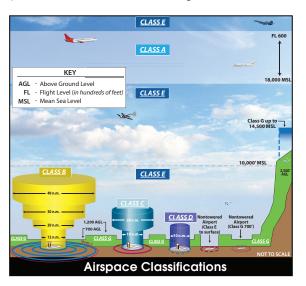


#### Controlled Airspace:

Airspace of defined dimensions within which air traffic control services are provided to instrument flight rules (IFR) and visual flight rules (VFR) flights in accordance with the airspace classification. Controlled airspace in the United States is designated as follows:

CLASS A: Generally, the airspace from 18,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) up to but not including flight level FL600. All persons must operate their aircraft under IFR.

CLASS B: Generally, the airspace from the surface to 10,000 feet MSL surrounding the nation's busiest airports. The configuration of Class B airspace is unique to each airport, but typically consists of two or more layers of air space and is designed to contain all published instrument approach procedures to the airport. An air traffic control clearance is required for all aircraft to operate in the area.



CLASS C: Generally, the airspace from the surface to 4,000 feet above the airport elevation (charted as MSL) surrounding those airports that have an operational control tower and radar approach control and are served by a qualifying number of IFR operations or passenger enplanements. Although individually tailored for each airport, Class C airspace typically consists of a surface area with a five nautical mile (nm) radius and an outer area with a 10 nautical mile radius that extends from 1,200 feet to 4,000 feet above the airport elevation. Two-way radio communication is required for all aircraft.

**CLASS D:** Generally, that airspace from the surface to 2,500 feet above the airport elevation (charted as MSL) surrounding those airports that have an operational control tower. Class D airspace is individually tailored and configured to encompass published instrument approach procedure. Unless otherwise authorized, all persons must establish two-way radio communication.

**CLASS E**: Generally, controlled airspace that is not classified as Class A, B, C, or D. Class E airspace extends upward from either the surface or a designated altitude to the overlying or adjacent controlled airspace. When designated as a surface area, the airspace will be configured to contain all instrument procedures. Class E airspace encompasses all Victor Airways. Only aircraft following instrument flight rules are required to establish two-way radio communication with air traffic control.

**CLASS G:** Generally, that airspace not classified as Class A, B, C, D, or E. Class G airspace is uncontrolled for all aircraft. Class G airspace extends from the surface to the overlying Class E airspace.

Controlled Firing Area: See special-use airspace.

Crosswind: A wind that is not parallel to a runway centerline or to the intended flight path of

an aircraft.

Crosswind Component: The component of wind that is at a right angle to the runway centerline or the intend-

ed flight path of an aircraft.

Crosswind Leg: A flight path at right angles to the landing runway off its upwind end. See

"traffic pattern."



D

**Decibel**: A unit of noise representing a level relative to a reference of a sound pressure 20

micro newtons per square meter.

Decision Height/Decision Altitude:

The height above the end of the runway surface at which a decision must be made by a pilot during the ILS or Precision Approach Radar approach to either continue the

approach or to execute a missed approach.

Declared Distances:

The distances declared available for the airplane's takeoff runway, takeoff distance, accelerate-stop distance, and landing distance requirements. The distances are:

• Takeoff Run Available (TORA): The runway length declared available and suitable for the ground run of an airplane taking off.

• Takeoff Distance Available (TODA): The TORA plus the length of any remaining runway and/or clear way beyond the far end of the TORA.

 Accelerate-stop Distance Available (ASDA): The runway plus stopway length declared available for the acceleration and deceleration of an aircraft aborting a takeoff.

· Landing Distance Available (LDA): The runway length declared available and suitable for landing.

Department Of Transportation: The cabinet level federal government organization consisting of modal operating

agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, which was established to promote the coordination of federal transportation programs and to act as a focal

point for research and development efforts in transportation.

**Discretionary Funds:** Federal grant funds that may be appropriated to an airport based upon designation

by the Secretary of Transportation or Congress to meet a specified national priority

such as enhancing capacity, safety, and security, or mitigating noise.

**Displaced Threshold:** A threshold that is located at a point on the runway other than the designated

beginning of the runway.

Distance Measuring Equipment (DME):

Equipment (airborne and ground) used to measure, in nautical miles, the slant range distance of an aircraft from

the DME navigational aid.

**DNL:** The 24-hour average sound level, in decibels, obtained

after the addition of ten decibels to sound levels for the periods between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. as averaged over a span of one year. It is the FAA standard metric for determin-

ing the cumulative exposure of individuals to noise.

**Downwind Leg:** A flight path parallel to the landing runway in the direction opposite to landing. The

downwind leg normally extends between the crosswind leg and the base leg. Also

see "traffic pattern."

Е

Easement: The legal right of one party to use a portion of the total rights in real estate owned by

another party. This may include the right of passage over, on, or below the property;

certain air rights above the property, including view rights; and the rights to any

DME

specified form of development or activity, as well as any other legal rights in the

property that may be specified in the easement document.

Elevation: The vertical distance measured in feet above mean sea level.

**Enplaned Passengers:** The total number of revenue passengers boarding aircraft, including originating,

stop-over, and transfer passengers, in scheduled and nonscheduled services.

Enplanement: The boarding of a passenger, cargo, freight, or mail on an aircraft at an airport.

Entitlement: Federal funds for which a commercial service airport may be eligible based upon its

annual passenger enplanements.

Environmental Assessment (EA): An environmental analysis performed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy

Act to determine whether an action would significantly affect the environment and

thus require a more detailed environmental impact statement.

Environmental Audit: An assessment of the current status of a party's compliance with applicable

environmental requirements of a party's environmental compliance policies,

practices, and controls.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

A document required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act for major projects or legislative proposals affecting the environment. It is a tool for decision-making describing the positive and negative effects of a proposed action

and citing alternative actions.

Essential Air Service: A federal program which guarantees air carrier service to selected small cities by

providing subsidies as needed to prevent these cities from such service.

F

Federal Aviation Regulations: The general and permanent rules established by the executive departments and

agencies of the Federal Government for aviation, which are published in the Federal

Register. These are the aviation subset of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Federal Inspection Services: The provision of customs and immigration services including passport inspection,

inspection of baggage, the collection of duties on certain imported items, and the

inspections for agricultural products, illegal drugs, or other restricted items.

Final Approach: A flight path in the direction of landing along the extended runway centerline. The final

approach normally extends from the base leg to the runway. See "traffic pattern."

Final Approach and Takeoff Area (FATO):

A defined area over which the final phase of the helicopter approach to a hover, or

a landing is completed and from which the takeoff is initiated.

Final Approach Fix: The designated point at which the final approach segment for an aircraft landing on

a runway begins for a non-precision approach.

Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

A public document prepared by a Federal agency that presents the rationale why a

proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment and for which

an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Fixed Base Operator (FBO): A provider of services to users of an airport. Such services include, but are not limited

to, hangaring, fueling, flight training, repair, and maintenance.

Flight Level: A measure of altitude used by aircraft flying above 18,000 feet. Flight levels are

indicated by three digits representing the pressure altitude in hundreds of feet. An airplane flying at flight level 360 is flying at a pressure altitude of 36,000 feet. This is

expressed as FL 360.



Flight Service Station (FSS): An operations facility in the national flight advisory system which utilizes data

interchange facilities for the collection and dissemination of Notices to Airmen, weather, and administrative data and which provides preflight and in-flight advisory

services to pilots through air and ground based communication facilities.

Frangible Navaid: A navigational aid which retains its structural integrity and stiffness up to a designated

maximum load, but on impact from a greater load, breaks, distorts, or yields in such a

manner as to present the minimum hazard to aircraft.

G

General Aviation: That portion of civil aviation which encompasses all facets of aviation except air

carriers holding a certificate of convenience and necessity, and large aircraft

commercial operators.

**General Aviation Airport**: An airport that provides air service to only general aviation.

Glideslope (G\$): Provides vertical guidance for aircraft during approach and landing. The glideslope

consists of the following:

 Electronic components emitting signals which provide vertical guidance by reference to airborne instruments during instrument

approaches such as ILS; or

 Visual ground aids, such as PAPI, which provide vertical guidance for VFR approach or for the visual portion of an instrument approach and landing.

Global Positioning System (GPS): A system of satellites used as reference points to enable navigators equipped with

GPS receivers to determine their latitude, longitude, and altitude.

Ground Access: The transportation system on and around the airport that provides access to and

from the airport by ground transportation vehicles for passengers, employees, cargo,

freight, and airport services.

Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS):

A program that augments the existing GPS system by providing corrections to aircraft

in the vicinity of an airport in order to improve the accuracy of these aircrafts' GPS

navigational position

Н

**Helipad:** A designated area for the takeoff, landing, and parking of helicopters.

High Intensity Runway Lights (HIRL):

The highest classification in terms of intensity or brightness for lights designated for use

in delineating the sides of a runway.

High-speed Exit Taxiway: An acute-angled exit taxiway forming a 30 degree angle with the runway centerline,

designed to allow an aircraft to exit a runway without having to decelerate to typical

taxi speed.

Horizontal Surface: An imaginary obstruction-limiting surface defined in FAR Part 77 that is specified as a

portion of a horizontal plane surrounding a runway located 150 feet above the established airport elevation. The specific horizontal dimensions of this surface are  $\alpha$ 

function of the types of approaches existing or planned for the runway.

Hot Spot: A location on an airport movement area with a history of potential risk of collision or

runway incursion, and where heightened attention by pilots and drivers is necessary.



Initial Approach Fix:

The designated point at which the initial approach segment begins for an instrument

approach to a runway.

Instrument Approach Procedure:

A series of predetermined maneuvers for the orderly transfer of an aircraft under instrument flight conditions from the beginning of the initial approach to a landing, or

to a point from which a landing may be made visually.

Instrument Flight Rules (IFR): Procedures for the conduct of flight in weather conditions below Visual Flight Rules

weather minimums. The term IFR is often also used to define weather conditions **and** 

the type of flight plan under which an aircraft is operating.

Instrument Landing System (ILS): A precision instrument approach system which normally consists of the following

electronic components and visual aids:

1. Localizer 3. Outer Marker 5. Approach Lights

2. Glide Slope 4. Middle Marker

Instrument Meteorological Conditions:

Meteorological conditions expressed in terms of specific visibility and ceiling conditions

that are less than the minimums specified for visual meteorological conditions.

**Itinerant Operations:** Operations by aircraft that are arriving from outside the traffic pattern or departing

the airport traffic pattern.

K

**Knots**: A unit of speed length used in navigation that is equivalent to the number of nautical

miles traveled in one hour.

Landside: The portion of an airport that provides the facilities necessary for the processing of

passengers, cargo, freight, and ground transportation vehicles.

Landing Distance Available (LDA):

See declared distances.

Large Airplane: An airplane that has a maximum certified takeoff weight in excess of 12,500 pounds.

Local Operations: Aircraft operations performed by aircraft that operate in the local traffic pattern or

within sight of the airport, that are known to be departing for or arriving from flights in local practice areas within a prescribed distance from the airport, or that execute simulated instrument approaches at the airport. Typically, this includes touch and-go

training operations.

Localizer: The component of an ILS which provides

course guidance to the runway.

Localizer Type Directional Aid (LDA):

A facility of comparable utility and accuracy to a localizer but is not part of a complete ILS and is not aligned with

the runway.





Low Intensity Runway Lights: The lowest classification in terms of intensity or brightness for lights designated for use

in delineating the sides of a runway.

M

Medium Intensity Runway Lights:

The middle classification in terms of intensity or brightness for lights designated for

use in delineating the sides of a runway.

Military Operations: Aircraft operations that are performed in military aircraft.

Military Operations Area (MOA): See special-use airspace

Military Training Route: An air route depicted on aeronautical charts for the conduct of military flight training

at speeds above 250 knots.

Missed Approach Course (MAC):

The flight route to be followed if, after an instrument approach, a landing is not

affected, and occurring normally:

· When the aircraft has descended to the decision height and has not

established visual contact; or

· When directed by air traffic control to pull up or to go around again.

Movement Area: The runways, taxiways, and other areas of an airport which are utilized for

taxiing/hover taxiing, air taxiing, takeoff, and landing of aircraft, exclusive of loading ramps and parking areas. At those airports with a tower, air traffic control clearance

is required for entry onto the movement area.

N

National Airspace System (NAS):

The network of air traffic control facilities, air traffic control areas, and navigational

facilities through the U.S.

National Plan Of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS):

The national airport system plan developed by the Secretary of Transportation on a biannual basis for the development of public use airports to meet national air trans-

portation needs.

National Transportation Safety Board:

A federal government organization established to investigate and determine the probable cause of transportation accidents, to recommend equipment and

procedures to enhance transportation safety, and to review on appeal the suspen-

sion or revocation of any certificates or licenses issued by the Secretary

of Transportation.

Nautical Mile: A unit of length used in navigation which is equivalent to the distance spanned by

one minute of arc in latitude, that is, 1,852 meters or 6,076 feet. It is equivalent to

approximately 1.15 statute mile.

Navaid: A term used to describe any electrical or visual air navigational aids, lights, signs, and

associated supporting equipment (i.e., PAPI, VASI, ILS, etc.)

Navigational Aid: A facility used as, available for use as, or designed for use as an aid to air navigation.

Noise Contour: A continuous line on a map of the airport vicinity connecting all points of the same

noise exposure level.



Non-directional Beacon (NDB): A beacon transmitting nondirectional signals whereby

the pilot of an aircraft equipped with direction finding equipment can determine their bearing to and from the radio beacon and home on, or track to, the station. When the radio beacon is installed in conjunction with the Instrument Landing System marker, it is normally called a

Compass Locator.

Non-precision Approach Procedure:

A standard instrument approach procedure in which no electronic glide slope is provided, such as VOR, TACAN,

NDB, or LOC.

Notice To Air Missions (NOTAM): A notice containing information concerning the establish-

ment, condition, or change in any component of or hazard in the National Airspace System, the timely knowledge of which is considered essential to personnel concerned with

flight operations.





Object Free Area (OFA): An area on the ground centered on a runway, taxiway, or taxilane centerline

provided to enhance the safety of aircraft operations by having the area free of objects, except for objects that need to be located in the OFA for air navigation or

aircraft ground maneuvering purposes.

Obstacle Free Zone (OFZ): The airspace below 150 feet above the established airport elevation and along the

runway and extended runway centerline that is required to be kept clear of all objects, except for frangible visual NAVAIDs that need to be located in the OFZ because of their function, in order to provide clearance for aircraft landing or taking

off from the runway, and for missed approaches.

**Operation:** The take-off, landing, or touch-and-go procedure by an aircraft on a runway at

an airport.

Outer Marker (OM): An ILS navigation facility in the terminal area navigation system located four to seven

miles from the runway edge on the extended centerline, indicating to the pilot that

he/she is passing over the facility and can begin final approach.

P

**Pilot-controlled Lighting:** Runway lighting systems at an airport that are controlled by activating the microphone

of a pilot on a specified radio frequency.

Precision Approach: A standard instrument approach procedure which provides runway alignment and

glide slope (descent) information. It is categorized as follows:

CATEGORY I (CAT I): A precision approach which provides for approaches
with a decision height of not less than 200 feet and visibility not less than
1/2 mile or Runway Visual Range (RVR) 2400 (RVR 1800) with operative
touchdown zone and runway centerline lights.

- CATEGORY II (CAT II): A precision approach which provides for approaches with a decision height of not less than 100 feet and visibility not less than 1200 feet RVR.
- CATEGORY III (CAT III): A precision approach which provides for approaches with minimal less than Category II.



#### Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI):

A lighting system providing visual approach slope guidance to aircraft during a landing approach. A PAPI normally consists of four light units but an abbreviated system of two lights is acceptable for some categories of aircraft.

#### Precision Approach Radar:

A radar facility in the terminal air traffic control system used to detect and display with a high degree of accuracy the direction, range, and elevation of an aircraft on the final approach to a runway.



**Precision Approach Path Indicator** 

#### Precision Object Free Zone (POFZ):

An area centered on the extended runway centerline, beginning at the runway threshold and extending behind the runway threshold that is 200 feet long by 800 feet wide. The POFZ is a clearing standard which requires the POFZ to be kept clear of above ground objects protruding above the runway safety area edge elevation (except for frangible NAVAIDS). The POFA is only in effect when the approach includes vertical guidance, the reported ceiling is below 250 feet, and an aircraft is on final approach within two miles of the runway threshold.

Primary Airport: A commercial service airport that enplanes at least 10,000 annual passengers.

Primary Surface: An imaginary obstruction limiting surface defined in FAR Part 77 that is specified as

a rectangular surface longitudinally centered about a runway. The specific dimensions of this surface are a function of the types of approaches existing or planned

for the runway.

Prohibited Area: See special-use airspace.

PVC: Poor visibility and ceiling. Used in determining Annual Service Volume. PVC conditions

exist when the cloud ceiling is less than 500 feet and visibility is less than one mile.

R

Radial: A navigational signal generated by a Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range

or VORTAC station that is measured as an azimuth from the station.

**Regression Analysis:** A statistical technique that seeks to identify and quantify the relationships between

factors associated with a forecast.

Remote Communications Outlet (RCO):

An unstaffed transmitter receiver/facility remotely controlled by air traffic personnel.

RCOs serve flight service stations (FSSs). RCOs were established to provide

ground-to-ground communications between air traffic control specialists and pilots at satellite airports for delivering enroute clearances, issuing departure authorizations, and acknowledging instrument flight rules cancellations or departure/landing times.

Remote Transmitter/receiver (RTR):

See remote communications outlet. RTRs serve ARTCCs.

Reliever Airport: An airport to serve general aviation aircraft which might otherwise use a congested

air-carrier served airport.

**Restricted Area:** See special-use airspace.

RNAV: Area navigation - airborne equipment which permits flights over determined tracks

within prescribed accuracy tolerances without the need to overfly ground-based

navigation facilities. Used enroute and for approaches to an airport.



Runway: A defined rectangular area on an airport prepared for aircraft landing and takeoff.

Runways are normally numbered in relation to their magnetic direction, rounded off to the nearest 10 degrees. For example, a runway with a magnetic heading of 180 would be designated Runway 18. The runway heading on the opposite end of the runway is 180 degrees from that runway end. For example, the opposite runway heading for Runway 18 would be Runway 36 (magnetic heading of 360). Aircraft can

Runway Alignment Indicator Light (RAIL):

A series of high intensity sequentially flashing lights installed on the extended centerline of the runway usually in conjunction with an approach lighting system.

takeoff or land from either end of a runway, depending upon wind direction.

**Runway Design Code:** A code signifying the FAA design standards to which the runway is to be built.

Runway End Identification Lighting (REIL):

Two synchronized flashing lights, one on each side of the runway threshold, which provide rapid and positive identification of the approach end of a

particular runway.

**Runway Gradient:** The average slope, measured in percent, between the

two ends of a runway.

Runway Protection Zone (RPZ): An area off the runway end to enhance the protection

of people and property on the ground. The RPZ is trapezoidal in shape. Its dimensions are determined by the aircraft approach speed and runway approach

type and minimal.

**Runway Reference Code:** A code signifying the current operational capabilities of a runway and taxiway.

Runway Safety Area (RSA): A defined surface surrounding the runway prepared or suitable for reducing the risk

of damage to airplanes in the event of an undershoot, overshoot, or excursion from

the runway.

Runway Visibility Zone (RVZ): An area on the airport to be kept clear of permanent objects so that there is an

unobstructed line of sight from any point five feet above the runway centerline to any

point five feet above an intersecting runway centerline.

Runway Visual Range (RVR): An instrumentally derived value, in feet, representing the horizontal distance a pilot

can see down the runway from the runway end.

S

Scope: The document that identifies and defines the tasks, emphasis, and level of effort

associated with a project or study.

Segmented Circle: A system of visual indicators designed to provide traffic pattern information at airports

without operating control towers, often co-located with a wind cone.

Shoulder: An area adjacent to the edge of paved runways, taxiways, or aprons providing a

transition between the pavement and the adjacent surface; support for aircraft running off the pavement; enhanced drainage; and blast protection. The shoulder

Does Not Necessarily Need To Be Paved.

Slant-range Distance: The straight line distance between an aircraft and a point on the ground.

Small Aircraft:

An aircraft that has a maximum certified takeoff weight of up to 12,500 pounds.

Special-use Airspace:

Airspace of defined dimensions identified by a surface area wherein activities must be confined because of their nature and/or wherein limitations may be imposed upon aircraft operations that are not a part of those activities. Special-use airspace classifications include:

- ALERT AREA: Airspace which may contain a high volume of pilot training activities or an unusual type of aerial activity, neither of which is hazardous to aircraft.
- CONTROLLED FIRING AREA: Airspace wherein activities are conducted under conditions so controlled as to eliminate hazards to nonparticipating aircraft and to ensure the safety of persons or property on the ground.
- MILITARY OPERATIONS AREA (MOA): Designated airspace with defined vertical and lateral dimensions established outside Class A airspace to separate/segregate certain military activities from instrument flight rule (IFR) traffic and to identify for visual flight rule (VFR) traffic where these activities are conducted.
- PROHIBITED AREA: Designated airspace within which the flight of aircraft is prohibited.
- RESTRICTED AREA: Airspace designated under Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) 73, within which the flight of aircraft, while not wholly prohibited, is subject to restriction. Most restricted areas are designated joint use. When not in use by the using agency, IFR/VFR operations can be authorized by the controlling air traffic control facility.
- WARNING AREA: Airspace which may contain hazards to nonparticipating aircraft.

#### Standard Instrument Departure (SID):

A preplanned coded air traffic control IFR departure routing, preprinted for pilot use in graphic and textual form only.

#### Standard Instrument Departure Procedures:

A published standard flight procedure to be utilized following takeoff to provide a transition between the airport and the terminal area or enroute airspace.

#### Standard Terminal Arrival Route (STAR):

A preplanned coded air traffic control IFR arrival routing, preprinted for pilot use in graphic and textual or textual form only.

**Stop-and-go:** A procedure wherein an aircraft will land, make a complete stop on the runway,

and then commence a takeoff from that point. A stop-and-go is recorded as two operations: one operation for the landing and one operation for the takeoff.

**Stopway:** An area beyond the end of a takeoff runway that is designed to support an aircraft

during an aborted takeoff without causing structural damage to the aircraft. It is not

to be used for takeoff, landing, or taxiing by aircraft.

Straight-in Landing/approach: A landing made on a runway aligned within 30 degrees of the final approach course

following completion of an instrument approach.



T

Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN):

An ultrahigh frequency electronic air navigation system which provides suitably equipped aircraft a continuous indication of bearing and distance to the

TACAN station.

Takeoff Runway Available (TORA):

See declared distances.

Takeoff Distance Available (TODA):

See declared distances.

Taxilane: A taxiway designed for low speed and precise taxiing, Taxilanes are usually, but not

always, located outside the movement area and provide access to from taxiways to

aircraft parking positions and other terminal areas.

**Taxiway:** A defined path established for the taxiing of aircraft from one part of an airport

to another.

**Taxiway Design Group:** A classification of airplanes based on outer to outer Main Gear Width (MGW) and

Cockpit to Main Gear (CMG) distance.

Taxiway Safety Area (TSA): A defined surface alongside the taxiway prepared or suitable for reducing the risk of

damage to an airplane unintentionally departing the taxiway.

Terminal Instrument Procedures: Published flight procedures for conducting instrument approaches to runways under

instrument meteorological conditions.

Terminal Radar Approach Control:

An element of the air traffic control system responsible for monitoring the enroute and terminal segment of air traffic in the airspace surrounding airports with moderate

to high levels of air traffic.

**Tetrahedron**: A device used as a landing

direction indicator. The small end of the tetrahedron points in the

direction of landing.

Threshold: The beginning of that portion of the

runway available for landing. In some instances, the threshold may

be displaced.

**Touch-and-go:** An operation by an aircraft that

lands and departs on a runway without stopping or exiting the

runway. A touch-and-go is recorded as two operations: one operation for the

landing and one operation for the takeoff.

**Touchdown:** The point at which a landing aircraft makes contact with the runway surface.

Touchdown and Lift-off Area (TLOF):

A load bearing, generally paved area, normally centered in the FATO, on which a

helicopter lands or takes off.

**Touchdown Zone (TDZ):** The first 3,000 feet of the runway beginning at the threshold.

Touchdown Zone Elevation (TDZE):

The highest elevation in the touchdown zone.



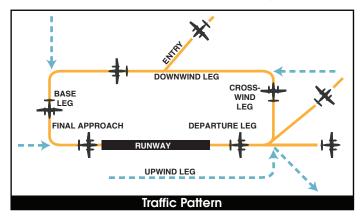
**Tetrahedron** 

**Touchdown Zone Lighting:** Two rows of transverse light bars located symmetrically about the runway centerline

normally at 100-foot intervals. The basic system extends 3,000 feet along the runway.

**Traffic Pattern:** The traffic flow that is

The traffic flow that is prescribed for aircraft landing at or taking off from an airport. The components of a typical traffic pattern are the upwind leg, crosswind leg, downwind leg, base leg, and final approach.





Uncontrolled Airport: An airport without an airport traffic control tower at which the control of Visual Flight

Rules traffic is not exercised.

**Uncontrolled Airspace**: Airspace within which aircraft are not subject to air traffic control.

Universal Communication (UNICOM):

A nongovernment communication facility which may provide airport information at certain airports. Locations and frequencies of UNICOMs are shown on aeronautical

charts and publications.

**Upwind Leg:** A flight path parallel to the landing runway in the direction of landing. See

"traffic pattern."



**Vector:** A heading issued to an aircraft to provide navigational guidance by radar.

Very High Frequency/ Omnidirectional Range (VOR):

A ground-based electronic navigation aid transmitting very high frequency navigation signals, 360 degrees in azimuth, oriented from magnetic north. Used as the basis for navigation in the national airspace system. The VOR periodically identifies itself by Morse Code and may have an additional voice identification feature.

Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range/ Tactical Air Navigation (VORTAC):

A navigation aid providing VOR azimuth, TACAN azimuth, and TACAN

distance-measuring equipment (DME) at one site.

Victor Airway: A system of established routes that run along specified VOR radials, from one VOR

station to another.

Visual Approach: An approach wherein an aircraft on an IFR flight plan, operating in VFR conditions

under the control of an air traffic control facility and having an air traffic control authorization, may proceed to the airport of destination in VFR conditions.

Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI):

An airport lighting facility providing vertical visual approach slope guidance to aircraft during approach to landing. The VASI is now obsolete and is being replaced

with the PAPI.



Visual Flight Rules (VFR): Rules that govern the procedures for conducting flight under visual conditions. The

term VFR is also used in the United States to indicate weather conditions that are equal to or greater than minimum VFR requirements. In addition, it is used by pilots

and controllers to indicate type of flight plan.

Visual Meteorological Conditions:

Meteorological conditions expressed in terms of specific visibility and ceiling conditions which are equal to or greater than the threshold values for instrument meteoro-

logical conditions.

Visual Runway: A runway without an existing or planned instrument approach.

VOR: See "Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Station."

**VORTAC:** See "Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Station/Tactical Air Navigation."

W

Warning Area: See special-use airspace.

Wide Area Augmentation System:

An enhancement of the Global Positioning System that includes integrity broadcasts, differential corrections, and additional ranging signals for the purpose of providing the accuracy, integrity, availability, and continuity required to support all

phases of flight.

Windsock/Windcone: A visual aid that indicates the prevailing wind

direction and intensity at a particular location.



## **Abbreviations**

AC: advisory circular

ACIP: airport capital improvement program

ADF: automatic direction finder

ADG: airplane design group

AFSS: automated flight service station

**AGL:** above ground level

AIA: annual instrument approach

AIP: Airport Improvement Program

AIR-21: Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and

Reform Act for the 21st Century

ALS: approach lighting system

ALSF-1: standard 2,400-foot high intensity approach

lighting system with sequenced flashers

(CATI configuration)

ALSF-2: standard 2,400-foot high intensity approach

lighting system with sequenced flashers

(CAT II configuration)

**AOA:** Aircraft Operation Area

APRC: approach reference code

**APV:** instrument approach procedure with vertical

guidance

ARC: airport reference code

ARFF: aircraft rescue and fire fighting

ARP: airport reference point

**ARTCC**: air route traffic control center

ASDA: accelerate-stop distance available

ASR: airport surveillance radar

ASOS: automated surface observation station

**ASV:** annual service volume

ATC: airport traffic control

ATCT: airport traffic control tower

ATIS: automated terminal information service

AVGAS: aviation gasoline - typically 100 low lead (100LL)

AWOS: automatic weather observation station

**BRL:** building restriction line

CFR: Code of Federal Regulation

CIP: capital improvement program

**DME:** distance measuring equipment

**DNL:** day-night noise level

**DPRC:** departure reference code

**DWL:** runway weight bearing capacity of aircraft

with dual-wheel type landing gear

**DTWL:** runway weight bearing capacity of aircraft

with dual-tandem type landing gear

FAA: Federal Aviation Administration

FAR: Federal Aviation Regulation

**FBO:** fixed base operator

**FY:** fiscal year

GA: general aviation

GPS: global positioning system

**GS:** glide slope

HIRL: high intensity runway edge lighting

**IFR:** instrument flight rules (FAR Part 91)

**ILS:** instrument landing system

IM: inner marker

LDA: localizer type directional aid

LDA: landing distance available

LIRL: low intensity runway edge lighting

LMM: compass locator at middle marker

**LNAV:** lateral navigation

LOC: localizer

LOM: compass locator at outer marker

**LP:** localizer performance

LPV: localizer performance with vertical guidance



MALS: medium intensity approach lighting system

MALSR: MALS with runway alignment indicator lights

**MALSF:** MALS with sequenced flashers

**MIRL:** medium intensity runway edge lighting

MITL: medium intensity taxiway edge lighting

MLS: microwave landing system

**MM:** middle marker

MOA: military operations area

**MSL**: mean sea level

MTOW: maximum takeoff weight

**NAVAID:** navigational aid

NDB: nondirectional radio beacon

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

**NM:** nautical mile (6,076.1 feet)

**NPDES:** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

**NPIAS:** National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems

NPRM: notice of proposed rule making

**ODALS:** omnidirectional approach lighting system

**OFA:** object free area

**OFZ:** obstacle free zone

**OM:** outer marker

**PAPI:** precision approach path indicator

**PFC:** porous friction course

**PFC:** passenger facility charge

**PCI:** pavement condition index

**PCL:** pilot-controlled lighting

**PIW:** public information workshop

**POFZ:** precision object free zone

**PVC:** poor visibility and ceiling

**RCO:** remote communications outlet

**RDC:** runway design code

**REIL:** runway end identification lighting

RNAV: area navigation

**RPZ:** runway protection zone

**RSA:** runway safety area

**RTR:** remote transmitter/receiver

**RVR:** runway visibility range

**RVZ:** runway visibility zone

**SALS:** short approach lighting system

**SASP:** state aviation system plan

**SEL:** sound exposure level

**SID:** standard instrument departure

**SM:** statute mile (5,280 feet)

**SRE:** snow removal equipment

**SSALF:** simplified short approach lighting system with

runway alignment indicator lights

**STAR:** standard terminal arrival route

**SWL:** runway weight bearing capacity for aircraft

with single-wheel tandem type landing gear

TACAN: tactical air navigational aid

**TAF:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Terminal Area Forecast

**TDG:** taxiway design group

**TLOF:** Touchdown and lift-off

**TDZ:** touchdown zone

**TDZE:** touchdown zone elevation

**TODA:** takeoff distance available

**TORA:** takeoff runway available

TRACON: terminal radar approach control

**VASI:** visual approach slope indicator

**VFR:** visual flight rules (FAR Part 91)

**VHF:** very high frequency

**VOR:** very high frequency omni-directional range

**VORTAC:** VOR and TACAN collocated

**WAAS:** wide area augmentation system

