

Actual Runway Length: The length of full-width, usable runway from end to end or full strength pavement where those runways are paved

ADF: Automatic Direction Finder

Advisory Circular (AC): A series of FAA publications consisting of all non-regulatory material of a policy, guidance, and informational nature

Aeronautical Chart: A map representing a portion of the earth B made especially for use in air navigation

AIP: Airport Improvement Program

Aircraft Design Group (ADG): A grouping of airplanes based on wingspan

Aircraft Mix: The numerical or percentage breakdown of aircraft based at or using an airport into categories by aircraft type

Aircraft Operation: An aircraft arrival or departure, including touch-and-go operations

Aircraft Tie-Down: Positions on the ground surface that are available for securing aircraft

Air Pollution: The presence of contaminants in the air in concentrations that prevent the normal dispersive ability of the air and that interfere directly or indirectly with man=s health, safety or comfort, or with the full use and enjoyment of his property

Airport: An area of land or water that is used or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of aircraft, including its buildings and facilities. (FAR Part 1)

Airport Classification:

- **Local Service (LO):** Have known forecasted development limitations of expansion constraints. These include environmental, air space topography, proximity of similar services, land use incompatibility, ownership status, financial infeasibility, surrounding development strangulation, and low activity projections
- **Basic Utility (BU):** Accommodate approximately 95 percent of the general aviation propeller fleet under 12,500 lbs. There are no special activity criteria required for these types of airports

- **General Utility (GU):** Accommodate all general aircraft under 12,500 lbs. and require at least 500 annual itinerant operations of aircraft between 8,000 and 12,000 lbs.
- **Basic Transport (BT):** Accommodate all general aviation aircraft up to 60,000 lbs. Maximum Gross Weight, including business jets and propeller transports (commuter aircraft). Basic transport airports must have at least 500 annual itinerant operations (existing or forecasted) by aircraft between 12,500 and 60,000 lbs. (MGW)
- **Air Carrier (AC):** Provide air commuter and/or scheduled air carrier service to communities in vicinity of an airport

Airport Elevation: The highest point of an airport=s usable runways expressed in feet above mean sea level (MSL)

Airport Layout Plan (ALP): The plan for an airport showing the layout of existing and proposed airport facilities and structures

Airport Master Plan: Appropriate documents and drawings concerning the development of a specific airport from a physical, economic, social, and political jurisdictional perspective. The airport layout plan is a part of this plan

Airport Operation: A landing or a takeoff at an airport. (A low approach below traffic pattern altitude or a touch-and-go operation is counted as both a landing and a takeoff, i.e., two operations)

Airport Service Area: The area that generates demand for aviation surfaces

Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR): A navigation instrument used to control air traffic within the immediate airport traffic areas

Airspace: The space above the ground in which aircraft travel. It is divided into corridors, routes, and restricted zones for the control and safety of traffic

Air Taxi: The transport of people or property for compensation by the holder of an Air Taxi Operating Certificate

ALS: Approach Lighting System

Ambient: The sum total of existing environmental conditions for any given impact category

Ambient Air Quality: The existing quality of the air

Approach Slope: The angle of descent to a runway

Approach Surface: An imaginary inclined surface longitudinally centered on the extended centerline of a runway, extending outward and upward from the runway and of specified size and gradient. It has shallower gradient than the corresponding glide slope

Apron: An area on an airport designated for the parking, loading, fueling, or servicing of aircraft

ARFF: Airfield Rescue Fire Fighting

ARTCC: Air Route Traffic Control Center

ASV: Annual Service Volume

ATC: Air Traffic Control

ATCT: Air Traffic Control Tower

Aviation Easement: A form of legal land-use control prohibiting incompatible development of areas required for airports or aviation-related purposes

Based Aircraft: Aircraft stationed at the airport on a permanent basis

Building Restriction Line (BRL): A line shown on the airport layout plan beyond which airport buildings must not be positioned in order to limit their proximity to aircraft movement areas and impact on airport imaginary surfaces

CBD: Central Business District

Conical Surface: A surface extending outward and upward from the periphery of the horizontal surface at a slope of 20 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 4,000 feet and extending to a height of 350 feet above the airport elevation

Critical Aircraft: The user aircraft, which requires the most sophisticated facilities at the airport; the aircraft for which facilities are designed

Critical Habitat: An entire habitat, or portion thereof, having any consistent element that is necessary to the normal needs or survival of an endangered or threatened species

Crosswind: A wind blowing across the line of flight of an aircraft

Decibel (dB): A unit of measurement used to describe the sound pressure level. It is a dimensionless unit, which is commonly expressed as one-tenth of the logarithm of the ratio between two power levels, one of which is nominally a reference level. The human auditory response to a given increase in sound pressure is approximately proportional to the increase in sound pressure in comparison to the pressure already present

Displaced Threshold: Actual touchdown point on specific runways designated due to obstructions, which make it impossible to use the actual physical runway end

DME: Distance Measuring Equipment is an airborne instrument, which indicates the distance the aircraft is from a point, usually a VOR station

DOT: U.S. Department of Transportation

Draft Environmental Impact Statement: FAA=s initial evaluation of the environmental impact of a proposed action when coordinated pursuant to Section 102(20C) of NEPA

Ecology: The science or study of the relationship between an organism and its environment

Ecosystem: An ecological community, together with its physical environment, considered as a unit

Effective Runway Gradient: The maximum difference between runway centerline elevations divided by the runway length

Endangered Species: Those species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range

Enroute Airways: The route a flight follows from departure point to destination

Environmental Assessment (EA): Report prepared by the sponsor of an action, analyzing the environmental impact of a proposed action for which federal financial assistance is being requested. This report may serve as the basis for the FAA=s draft environmental impact statement or negative declaration

FAA: Federal Aviation Administration

FAR: Federal Aviation Regulation

Fauna: A collective term for the animal specified present in an ecosystem

FIS: Federal Inspection Service

Fixed Based Operator (FBO): A private enterprise engaged in services related to general aviation, such as fuel sales, aircraft maintenance, hangar and apron parking, aircraft rental and sales, flight instruction, and crop dusting

Fleet Mix: See Aircraft Mix

Flight Service Station (FSS): FAA facility used for pilot briefings on weather, airports, altitudes, routes, and other flight planning data

Flora: A collective term for the plant species present in an ecosystem

Floodplain: That area that would be inundated by storm runoff, which would occur under a given recurrent frequency flood condition

Freight: Property other than express, mail, and passenger baggage transported by air

General Aviation (GA): All aviation except that classified as commercial air carrier or military

General Aviation Aircraft: All civil aircraft except those owned by and classified as air carrier

Glide Slope (GS): An ILS navigation facility providing vertical guidance for aircraft during approach and landing

Habitat: An area possessing uniformity of physiography, vegetation, climate, or other qualities important for species survival

Heliports: Airports used for the landing and takeoff of helicopters

Highly Restricted Airspace: Defined as one common path out of an airport where aircraft must follow one another for one to five miles

HIRL: High Intensity Runway Lights

Horizontal Surface: A horizontal plane 150 feet above the established airport elevation, the perimeter of which is constructed by swinging arcs of specified radii from the center of each end of the primary surface of each runway and connecting the adjacent arcs by tangent lines

IFR Airport: An airport with an authorized approach procedure

IFR Conditions: Weather conditions below the minimum prescribed for flight under VFR

Indirect Source: A facility, building, structure, or installation, which attracts mobile air pollution source activity, that results in emissions of a pollutant for which there is a national standard

INM: Integrated Noise Model

Instrument Approach: An approach to an airport, with intent to land, when the visibility is less than three miles and/or when the ceiling is at or below the minimum initial altitude

Instrument Landing System (ILS): A landing approach system with an established course and descent path to align an aircraft with a runway for final approach

Instrument Operations: An aircraft operation in accordance with an IFR flight plan or an operation where IFR separation between aircraft is provided by a terminal control facility of air route traffic control center

Itinerant Operations (ITI): Arrivals and departures of aircraft to or from an area greater than 20 miles from the airport. Itinerant operations may involve an aircraft based at that airport or an aircraft from another airport

Landing Strips: Landing facilities smaller than basic utility airports

Large Airplane: An airplane of more than 12,500 pounds maximum certified takeoff weight

LDN: Day/Night Average Sound Level

Localizer (LOC): An electronic instrument that is part of an ILS and emits radio signals, which provide the pilot with course guidance to the runway centerline

Local Operations (LCL): Operations performed by aircraft, which: (1) operate in the local traffic pattern of within sight of the tower, (2) are known to be departing for or arriving from flight in local practice areas within a 20-mile radius of the control tower; and (3) execute simulated instrument approach of low passes at the airport

Low Altitude Airway: The airways serving aircraft operations up to but not including 18,000 feet MSL

MALS: Medium Intensity Approach Lights

MALSR: Minimum Descent Altitude - the lowest altitude, expressed in feet above mean sea level (MSL), to which descent is authorized on final approach or during circling-to-land maneuvering in execution of a standard instrument approach procedure where no electronic glide slope is provided

Military Operations: An operation by military aircraft

MIRL: Medium Intensity Runway Lights

MOA: Military Operations Area

MSL: Mean Sea Level used as an elevation datum

NAVAID: Any facility used in aid of air navigation, including lights, equipment for disseminating weather information, for signaling, for radio direction finding, or for radio or other electronic communication, and any other structure or mechanism having a similar purpose for guiding or controlling flight in the air of the landing or takeoff of aircraft

NDB: Non-Directional Beacon

Noise Contour: A line connecting points of equal noise exposure

Non-Precision Approach Procedure: A standard instrument approach procedure in which no electronic glide slope is provided

Non-Precision Instrument Runway: A runway having only horizontal navigation guidance for which a straight-in, non-precision instrument approach procedure has been approved

Non-Scheduled Service: Revenue flights that are not operated in regularly scheduled service, such as charter flights, and all non-revenue flights incident to such flights

Normal Airspace: Where aircraft can be fanned out over three basic directions

NPI: Non-Precision Instrument

NPIAS: National Plan of Integrated Airport System

NWS: National Weather Service

Obstacle Free Area (OFA): A two-dimensional ground area surrounding runways, taxiways, and taxi lanes which are clear of objects except for whose location is fixed by function

Obstacle Free Zone (OFZ): The airspace centered about the runway that is clear of object penetrations other than frangible NAVAIDS

OC: Obstruction Chart

ODAL: Omni-Directional Approach Lighting System

OFA: Object Free Area

OM: Outer Marker

OPBA: Operations Per Based Aircraft

Operation: Any airborne arrival or departure of an aircraft at or from an airport. A Touch-and-go@ practice landings are considered as two operations

Origination: The initial enplanement of any passengers and cargo; total origination includes all enplanements except transfers and stopovers

Peak Hour: Represents the highest number of operations or passengers during the busiest hour of an average day of a peak month

Pollutant: An introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for a specific purpose

Precision Approach Procedure: A standard instrument approach procedure in which an electronic glide slope is provided, such as ILS or PAR (FAR Part 1)

Precision Instrument: The term used to describe an approach using both horizontal and vertical guidance. This term also describes the runway with this type of approach and the markings on the runway

Primary Runway: That runway which provides the best wind coverage, etc. This is the runway that receives the most usage at an airport

Primary Surface: A surface longitudinally centered on the runway. When the runway has a specially prepared surface, the primary surface extends 200 feet beyond each runway end. When there is no hard surface or planned hard surface, the primary surface ends at the end of the runway. The width on the primary surface will be that width prescribed in FAA Part 77 for the most precise existing or planned approach to that runway end

RNAV: Area Navigation

Rotating Beacon: A navigational aid emitting alternating white and green flashes to indicate a lighted airport or white flashes only for an unlighted airport

Runway (R/W): A defined area on an airport prepared for landing and takeoff of aircraft along its length

Runway End Identification Lights (REIL): An airport lighting facility consisting of a single flashing high intensity white light installed at each approach end corner of a runway and directed toward the approach zone, enabling the pilot to identify the threshold of a usable runway

Runway Gradient (effective): The average difference in elevation of the two ends of the runway divided by the runway length if no intervening point lies more than five feet above or below a straight line joining the two ends of the runway. If the criteria are not met, the runway profile will be segmented, and aircraft data will be applied for each segment separately

Runway Protection Zone (RPZ): An area (formerly referred to as the clear zone) used to enhance the safety of aircraft operations

Runway Safety Area (RSA): A defined surface surrounding the runway prepared or suitable for reducing risk of damage to airplanes in the event of an undershoot, overshoot, or excursion from the runway

Runway Strength: The ability of a runway to support aircraft of a designated gross weight for single wheel, dual wheel, and dual tandem wheel gear types

RVR: Runway Visual Range

Segmented Circle: An airport aid identifying the traffic pattern direction

Small Airplane: An airplane of 12,500 pounds or less maximum certificated takeoff weight

Socioeconomic: Data pertaining to the population and economic characteristics of a region
Special VFR Operations: Aircraft operating in accordance with clearances within certain control zones in weather conditions less than the basic VFR weather minimums

Straight-In Approach: An instrument approach wherein the final approach is commenced without first having executed a procedure turn (not necessarily completed with a straight-in landing)

Student Activity: Any aviation activity by student pilots

TACAN: Tactical Air Navigation

TAP: Terminal Area Plan

Taxi Lane: The portion of the aircraft parking area used for access between taxiways and aircraft parking positions

Taxiway: A defined area on an airport prepared for the surface movement of aircraft to and from the runway

TCA: Terminal Control Area

Terminal Airspace: The controlled airspace normally associated with aircraft departure and arrival patterns to or from airports within a terminal system

Terminal Building: That building on an airport, which is used in making the transition between surface transportation and air transportation

Terminal Facilities: The airport facilities providing services for air carrier operations that serve as a center for the transfer of passengers and baggage between surface and air transportation

Threshold: The designated beginning of the runway that is available and suitable for the landing of aircraft. When the threshold is located at a point other than at the beginning of the pavement, it is referred to as either a displaced threshold or a relocated threshold depending on how the pavement behind the threshold may be used

Transient Operations: All operations conducted by aircraft not based at the home airport

Ultimate: Refers to development, which will occur beyond the 20-year planning period

Unicom: Frequencies authorized for aeronautical advisory services to private aircraft

Unrestricted Airspace: Implies that no restrictions in noise procedures, other airport traffic, or geographical limitations are present

VFR Airport: An airport without an authorized or planned instrument approach procedure

Victor Airway: Phonetic designation of VOR airways

Visual Approach: An approach wherein an aircraft having an air traffic control authorization may deviate from the prescribed instrument approach procedure and proceed to the airport of destination, served by an operational control tower, by visual reference to the ground

Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI): An airport lighting facility that provides vertical visual guidance to aircraft during approach and landing, by radiating a directional pattern of high intensity red and white focused light beams

Visual Flight Rules (VFR): Rules that govern the procedures for conduction flight under visual conditions (FAR Part 91)

VOR: Very high frequency omni-directional range air navigation aid, which provides bearing information to aircraft

VOR/DME: A VOR to which a specific kind of distance measuring device has been added. (See VORTAC)

VORTAC: VOR with TACAN

Wind Cone (Sock): A free rotating fabric cone that indicates wind direction and wind force

Wind Coverage: Refers to orientation of runway in relationship to direction of prevailing winds (concerns usability of runway for takeoffs and landings)

Wind Rose: A diagram for a given location showing relative frequency and velocity of wind from all compass directions

Wind Tee: A tee-shaped free rotating device that indicates wind direction