Pilot Courses of Instruction

Airspace Classification and Related Regulatory Information

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Airspace

Class, Visibility & Cloud Clearances, Bases & Upper Boundaries, and Clearance Requirements

Class	Visibility & Cloud Clearances (for Q codes see "Aviation Q Codes" below)		Base & Upper Boundary (see note * below)	IFR Clearance Required? (see note ** below)	Communications Required
G	**< 1200 ft. QFE** **day** • 1 mile Clear of Clouds	**>= 1200 ft. QFE** **day** • 1 mile • +1000 ft. • -500 ft. • 2,000 ft. horizontal	**Base:** • surface **Upper Boundary:** • overlying Class E • 14,500 ft. QNH • other as charted	**NO**	For an airport with an operating control tower, communications must be established prior to 4 nautical miles from the airport, up to and including 2,500 feet AGL (no specific clearance required to enter four-mile ring)
	night • 3 miles • +1000 ft. • -500 ft. • 2,000 ft. horizontal • **in airport traffic pattern within 1/2 mile of runway** • 1 mile • Clear of Clouds	**night** • 3 miles • +1000 ft. • -500 ft. • 2,000 ft. horizontal			
		>= 10,000 ft. QNH (>= 1,200 ft. QFE) **day/night** • 5 miles • +/-1000 ft. • 1 mile horizontal			
E	**< 10,000 ft. QNH** • 3 miles • +1000 ft. • -500 ft. • 2,000 ft. horizontal	**>= 10,000 ft. QNH** • 5 miles • +/-1000 ft. • 1 mile horizontal	**Base:** • surface: red dashed lines • 700 ft.: magenta shading • 1200 ft.: blue or no shading • above B, C, or D • above A (over FL 600) [see note *** below] • above 14,500 ft. -- outside blue shading -- excluding < 1500 ft. QFE unless otherwise designated • other as charted **Upper Boundary:** • overlying Class B/C • overlying Class A (18,000 ft. QNH) • unlimited above Class A	**YES**	For an airport with an operating control tower, communications must be established prior to 4 nautical miles from the airport, up to and including 2,500 feet AGL (no specific clearance required to enter four-mile ring)
C/D/E	**Surface Area** • 3 miles • 1000 ft. ceiling -- or -- • Special VFR	**Aloft** • 3 miles • +1000 ft. • -500 ft. • 2,000 ft. horizontal ***E: see also above***	**Base:** • surface • as chartered otherwise **Upper Boundary:** • C: 4,000 ft. QFE • D: 2,500 ft. QFE • E: see above	**YES**	**C & D**: Establish & maintain radio communications (no specific clearance required to enter) **E:** see above
B	**Surface Area** • 3 miles • 1000 ft. ceiling -- or -- • Special VFR	**Aloft** • 3 miles • Clear of Clouds	**Base:** • surface • as chartered otherwise **Upper Boundary:** • as charted() -- generally 7,000 ft. to 14,000 ft. QNH -- generally 7,000 ft. to 10,000 ft. QFE	**YES**	Clearance required to enter (& maintain radio communications)
A	**All operations** • IFR Flight Plan • Clearance & Communications		**Base:** • 18,000 ft. QNH -- excluding <= 2,500 ft. QFE **Upper Boundary:** • FL 600	**YES**	Clearance required to enter (& maintain radio communications)
F	**Class F generally:** Class F is generally classified as a type of uncontrolled airspace, like Class G. In Class F airspace, operations may be conducted under IFR or VFR. However, unlike Class G, ATC will provide separation to aircraft operating under IFR, but only so far as practical, and ATC may only provide advisory services. Class F airspace of this nature has been designated in Austria, Germany, Hungary, and the U.K. (see Eurocontrol Airspace Classification). **Class F in North America:** Class F may also be used to designate certain special use airspace: this would be areas reserved for non-standard flight operations or other restrictions. Class F airspace of this nature has been designated in Canada (and is recognized as such by the U.S. FAA): Advisory (A) allows general use with specified limitations; Restricted (R) only allows aircraft approved by the controlling agency responsible for the airspace; Danger (D) designates such areas over international waters. Examples of this airspace are aerobatic (A), flight test (F), hang gliding (H), military (M), parachute jumping (P), soaring (S), and training (T) areas. **Class F in the United States** Class F has never been designated in the United States.				

Aviation Q Codes

QNH MSL Altitude based on local altimeter setting

QFE Altitude above ground leve

QN\E Pressure Altitude

Notes to the Airspace Table

***** Airspace definitions are for the continental United States and adjacent waters: airspace over Hawaii and the Alaskan peninsula west of 160 degrees W. longitude have certain variations.

****** All IFR (i.e., any flight in weather less than that prescribed for VFR, even when not operating in IMC) requires aircraft and pilot qualifications as specified for IFR regardless of requirement for flight plan or clearance.

******* Class E airspace over Class A is a somewhat elusive definition, but it is defined in the AIM (in Chap. 3, Sect. 2, Para. 6(e)(7)) as ". . . that airspace above FL 600[.]").

Reference: 14 CFR 91.126, *et. seq.* , 91.155.

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