

CHAPTER 10: FLIGHT PUBLICATIONS

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issues publications on regulations, operating procedures, aviation facilities, and issues affecting pilots. Most of these publications are available on the Internet, or they can be purchased from the Government Printing Office or from private publishers.

Remember that as a glider pilot, you are usually only dealing with a very small part of the aviation system. If you ever find yourself needing information on other parts of this system, you will probably find what you need in one of these publications. This chapter gives you an overview of what types of publications are available, and where to find them.

10.1 Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs)

The Federal Aviation Regulations are the rules developed by the FAA that apply to pilots, aircraft, and flight operations. The FARs are updated as necessary and are published each year. If there is ever a discrepancy between another source and the FARs, the FARs are the final word.

The FARs pertaining to glider operations are covered in Chapter 9: Regulations. The regulations themselves say that you must have access to a copy of the current FARs. Having “access” can mean owning a copy, borrowing one from the library, or having online access. It is highly recommended that while you are a student pilot, you have your own printed copy so that you can quickly turn to it while studying, and tag and mark the important parts for easy reference during your practical test.

You can purchase the FARs in printed or digital format at many bookstores, pilot shops, and glider training operations. The FARs are usually sold combined with the *Aeronautical Information Manual* (AIM). You can also view the full FARs online at the FAA’s website.

10.2 Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM)

The *Aeronautical Information Manual* is designed to provide the aviation community with basic flight information and air traffic control (ATC) procedures used in the National Airspace System of the United States. Other topics that it covers include: navigation aids, airport lighting and markings, airspace, emergency procedures, weather services, flight hazards, medical factors, and aeronautical charts.

The AIM is not regulatory; rather, it provides information on operating techniques and procedures prescribed in other federal publications and regulations. It is made available solely to assist pilots in executing their responsibilities.

You can purchase the AIM in printed or digital format at many bookstores, pilot shops, and glider training operations. The AIM is usually sold combined with the FARs. You can also view the full AIM online at the FAA's website.

10.3 Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs)

Notices to Airmen provide information that is considered essential to the safety of flight as well as supplemental data affecting charts, the AIM or *Airport/Facility Directory*. These include Flight Data Center NOTAMs, which are regulatory in nature and are issued to establish restrictions to flight.

NOTAMs serve as the primary source of new information until it can be incorporated into the next issue of the applicable publication, or of information that is temporary in nature. NOTAMs are issued to report airport or runway closures, changes in the status of navigational aids, airspace restrictions or closures, and other changes to flight operations.

An example of a NOTAM from the January 2005 publication is shown below.

FDC 4/4386 FDC SPECIAL NOTICE ... NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM INTERCEPT PROCEDURES. AVIATORS SHALL REVIEW THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION MANUAL (AIM) FOR INTERCEPTION PROCEDURES, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 6, PARAGRAPH 5-6-2. ALL AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN UNITED STATES NATIONAL AIRSPACE, IF CAPABLE, SHALL MAINTAIN A LISTENING WATCH ON VHF GUARD 121.5 OR UHF 243.0. IF AN AIRCRAFT IS INTERCEPTED BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND FLARES ARE DISPENSED, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES ARE TO BE FOLLOWED: FOLLOW THE INTERCEPT'S VISUAL SIGNALS, CONTACT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IMMEDIATELY ON THE LOCAL FREQUENCY OR ON VHF GUARD 121.5 OR UHF GUARD 243.0, AND COMPLY WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE INTERCEPTING AIRCRAFT INCLUDING VISUAL SIGNALS IF UNABLE RADIO CONTACT. BE ADVISED THAT NONCOMPLIANCE MAY RESULT IN THE USE OF FORCE.

Pilots should consult the latest NOTAM before conducting a flight. When you obtain a weather briefing from an FSS, you will be advised of any current NOTAMs affecting your planned flight. You can also access NOTAMs online.

10.4 Airport/Facility Directory (A/FD)

A regional *Airport/Facility Directory* is published every 8 weeks for each of seven regions of the continental United States, as shown in Figure 10.1.

These directories contain information on airports, communications, navigation aids, instrument landing systems, VOR receiver check points, preferred routes, Flight Service Station/Weather Service telephone numbers, Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) frequencies, and various other pertinent special notices essential to air navigation.

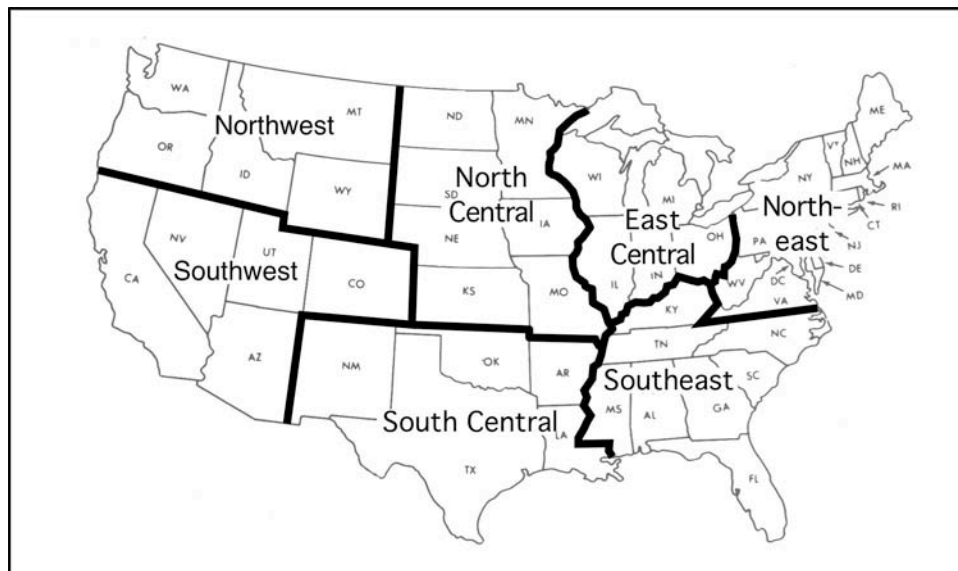


Figure 10.1 – Airport/Facility Directory Map

The A/FD includes data that cannot be readily depicted in graphic format: for instance, airport hours of operation, types of fuel and services available, runway data, lighting codes, etc. The A/FD also provides a means for pilots to update visual navigation charts between editions.

<p>TRUCKEE-TAHOE (TRK) 2 E UTC-8(-7DT) N39°19.20' W120°08.37' 5900 B S4 FUEL 100LL, JET A1 + OX 2 TPA-7000(1100) RWY 10-28: H7000X100 (ASPH-GRVD) S-12.5, D-100 MIRL RWY 10: REIL. Tree. RWY 01-19: H4650X75 (ASPH) S-30, D-65 MIRL RWY 01: Tree. RWY 19: VASI(V2L)—GA 3.5° TCH 30'. Thld dspcd 155'. Rgt tfc. AIRPORT REMARKS: Attended dusk-dawn. Wildlife on and invof arpt. Sailplanes ops NE of arpt May-Sep. Down drafts may be encountered expect windshear. Summer density altitudes in afternoon often exceed 9000'. Rwy 19 sailplanes left traffic. Ultralight activity on and invof arpt. Rwy 19 dspcd thld not lgtd. Rwy 19 lgts begin 400' from end of rwy. REIL Rwy 10 avbl on req ctc UNICOM. WEATHER DATA SOURCES: AWOS-3 118.0 (530) 587-4599. COMMUNICATIONS: CTAF/UNICOM 122.8 RENO FSS (RNO) TF 1-800-WX-BRIEF. NOTAM FILE TRK. Ⓡ OAKLAND CENTER APP/DEP CON 127.95 RADIO AIDS TO NAVIGATION: NOTAM FILE TVL. SQUAW VALLEY (L) VORW/DME 113.2 SWR Chan 79 N39°10.82' W120°16.18' 020° 10.3 NM to fld. 8850/16E. HIWAS.</p>	<p>SAN FRANCISCO H-2A, L-2G, 7A IAP</p>
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Figure 10.2 – A/FD entry for Truckee-Tahoe Airport

Figure 10.2 shows the entry for the Truckee-Tahoe Airport. Note that when using runway 19, sailplanes are to fly a left traffic pattern. At the front of the A/FD is a comprehensive legend for decoding the entries.

The *Airport/Facility Directory* is the only publication described in this chapter that is not on the FAA website. You can purchase the A/FD in printed format at

many bookstores and pilot shops. It is also available by subscription from the National Aeronautics Charting Office Distribution Division (AVN-530), Federal Aviation Administration, Riverdale, Maryland 20737.

10.5 Advisory Circulars (ACs)

Advisory Circulars are documents that elaborate on the FARs. ACs describe in detail the more procedural aspects of the FARs; they are a great source of specific information and clarification. You can look up specifics about as diverse things as logbook endorsements, thunderstorms, tie-down procedures, or aeronautical decision making (ADM).

Advisory Circulars are numbered by the part of the FARs to which they relate. For example, AC 61-65D pertains to FAR Part 61. Figure 10.3 shows the topic categories corresponding to the AC numbers.

Code	Topic
0	General
20	Aircraft
60	Airmen
70	Airspace
90	Air Traffic and General Operating Procedures

Figure 10.3 – Advisory Circular subject codes

The following list will give you an indication of the range of subjects covered by Advisory Circulars:

AC00-6A: Aviation Weather for Pilots and Flight Operations Personnel

AC 20-106: Aircraft Inspection for General Aviation Aircraft Owners

AC 20-107A: Composite Aircraft Structure

AC 61-67B: Stall Spin Awareness

AC 91-61: Hazard in Aerobatics: G-Forces on Pilots

AC91-35: Noise, Hearing Damage, and Fatigue in General Aviation Pilots

Some ACs are available free, while for others there is a cost. You can order free ACs from the FAA, and ACs for which there is a charge from the Government Printing Office. All are also available on the Internet.

To obtain the Guide to FAA Publications and Advisory Circular Checklist, send a written request to:

U.S. Department of Transportation
SVC-121.21
Washington, DC 20590

To obtain free ACs, send a written request to:

U.S. Department of Transportation
TASC, Subsequent Distribution Office, SVC-121.23
Ardmore East Business Center
3341 Q 75th Avenue
Landover, MD 20785
FAX (301) 386-5394
(Requests are accepted only by mail and fax.)

To obtain ACs for which there is a charge, contact:

Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954
(202) 512-1800 (Order Desk)