



APPENDIX A: Glossary of Terms

A

AC-Advisory Circular

AFB-Air Force Base

AGL-Above Ground Level

AIA-Annual Instruments Approach

AICUZ-Air Installation Compatible Use Zone Study

AIP-Airport Improvement Program

AIR CARRIER- Aircraft operating under certificates of public convenience and necessity issued by the CAB authorizing the performance of scheduled air transportation over specified routes and a limited amount of non-scheduled operations.

AIRCRAFT TYPES-An classification system which identifies and groups aircraft having similar operational characteristics for the purpose of computing runway capacity.

AIR NAVIGATIONAL FACILITY- Any facility used for guiding or controlling flight in the air or during the landing or takeoff of aircraft.

AIR ROUTE SURVEILLANCE RADAR (ARSR)-Long-range radar which increases the capability of air traffic control for handling heavy enroute traffic. An ARSR site is usually located at some distance from the ARTCC it serves. Its range is approximately 200 nautical miles. Also called ATC Center Radar.

AIR TAXI-Aircraft operated by a company or individual that performs air transportation on a non-scheduled basis over unspecified routes usually with light aircraft.

AIRPORT SURVEILLANCE RADAR (ASR)-Radar providing position of aircraft by azimuth and range data without elevation data. It is designed for a range of 50 miles. Also called ATC Terminal Radar.

AIRPORT TRAFFIC AREA-Unless otherwise specifically designated, that airspace within a horizontal radius of five statute miles from the geographical center of any airport at which a control tower is operating, extending from the surface up to but not including 3,000 feet above the surface.

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.

AIRSPACE – The space lying above the earth or above a certain area of land or water which is necessary to conduct aerodynamic operations.

ALP – Airport Layout Plan

ALS – Approach Light System

ALSFI – Approach Lighting System with Sequenced Flashing Lights

ANAP – Aviation Noise Abatement Policy

ANCLUC – Airport Noise Control and Land Use Compatibility Study

ACI – Airport Council International

APPROACH FIX – The point from or over which final approach (IFR) to an airport is expected.

ARFF – Airport Rescue and Firefighting Forces

ARTS – Automated Radar Terminal Station

ASNA – Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979

ASR – Airport Surveillance Radar

ATC – Air Traffic Control

ATCT – Air Traffic Control Tower

B

BASED AIRCRAFT – An aircraft permanently stationed at an airport, usually by some form of agreement between the aircraft owner and airport management or the Fixed Base Operator.

BASIC TRANSPORT AIRPORT – An airport designed to serve operations by business jet aircraft.

BIT – Bituminous Asphalt Pavement

BRL – Building Restriction Line. The closest point to a runway or taxiway at which a structure may be erected.

C

CAT II – Category II Instrument Landing System

CBD – Central Business District

CIRCLING APPROACH – A descent in an approved procedure to an airport followed by a circle-to-land maneuver.

CL – Centerline, or Centerline Lighting

CLEAR ZONE – Inner portion of runway approach zone.

COMMUTER AIRLINE – Aircraft operated by an airline that performs scheduled air transportation service over specified routes using light aircraft in accordance with FAR Parts 121 and or 135. Light aircraft means an aircraft having 30 seats or less and a maximum payload capacity of 7,500 pounds or less.

CONC – Portland Cements Concrete Pavement

CONTINENTAL CONTROL AREA – This includes the airspace at an above 14,500 feet nsl of the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, and Alaska, excluding the Alaskan peninsula west of longitude 160 degrees west. It does not include the airspace less than 1,500 feet above the surface of the earth nor most prohibited or restricted areas.

CONTROL AREAS – These consist of the airspace designated as VOR Federal Airways, additional Control Areas, and Control Areas Extensions but do not include the Continental Control Area. Control zones that do not underlie the Continental Control Areas have no upper limit. A control zone may include one or more airports and is normally a circular area with a radius of 5 statute miles and any extensions necessary to include instruments departure and arrival paths.

CONTROL TOWER – A central operations facility in the terminal air traffic control system consisting of a tower cab structure (including an associated 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.

CONTROL ZONES – These are areas of controlled airspace which extend upward from the surface and terminate at the base of the Continental Control Area. Control zones that do not underlie the Continental Control Area have no upper limit. A control zone may include one or more airports and is normally a circular area with a radius of five statute miles and any extensions necessary to include instruments departure and arrival paths.

CONTROLLED AIRSPACE – Airspace designated as Continental Control Area, control area, control zone, or transition area within which some or all aircraft may be subjected to air traffic control.

D

Db- Decibel

DBA – A weighted Decibel

DECISION HEIGHT (DH) – with respect to the operation of aircraft, this means the height at which a decision must be made, using an ILS or PAR instrument approach, to either continue the approach or to execute a missed approach.

DISTANCE MEASURING EQUIPMENT (DME) – An electronic installation established with either a

VOR or ILS to provide distance information from the facility to pilots by reception of electronic signals. It measures, in nautical miles, the distance of an aircraft from a NAVAID.

DOD – Department of Defense

DTW – Dual Tandem Wheel

E

EBI – Effective Buying Income; a bulk measurement of market potential of people in an area, that indicates the general ability to buy products.

ENROUTE – The route of flight from the point of departure to point of destination, including intermediate stops (excludes local operations).

ENROUTE AIRSPACE – Controlled airspace above and/or adjacent to terminal airspace.

E

FAA – Federal Aviation Administration

FAR – Federal Aviation Regulation

FBO – Fixed Base Operator

FINAL APPROACH IFR – The flight path of an aircraft which is inbound to the airport on an approved final instrument approach course, beginning at the point of interception of that course and extending to the airport or the point where circling for landing or missed approach is executed.

FINAL APPROACH VFR – The proportion of aircraft types or models expected to operate at an airport.

FLEET MIX – The proportion of aircraft types or models expected to operate at an airport.

FSDO – Flight Standards District Office, FAA

FY – Fiscal Year

G

GENERAL AVIATION (GA) – Refers to all civil aircraft and operations, which are not classified as air carrier.

GENERAL UTILITY (GU) – An airport which is designed to accommodate substantially all propeller-driven aircraft of less than 12,500 pounds.

GENERAL TRANSPORT (GT) AIRPORT – This airport designation is used when an airport is forecast to support general aviation transport aircraft between 60,000 and 175,000 pounds MGW.

GLIDE SLOPE (GS) – The vertical guidance component of an ILS.

GPS – Global Positioning System. An enroute and approach navigation system providing horizontal and vertical information from a constellation of satellites in earth orbit.

H

HGRS – Hangers

HIGH ALTITUDE AIRWAYS – Air routes above 18,000 feet MSL. These are referred to as Jet Routes.

HIRL – High Intensity Runway Lighting

HOLDING – A pre-determined maneuver which keeps an aircraft within a specified airspace while awaiting further clearance.

HUD – Department of Housing and Urban Development

I

IMC – Instrument Meteorological Conditions

INSTRUMENT APPROACH – An approach conducted while the final approach fix is below VFR minimums.

IFR – Instrument Flight Rules that govern flight procedures under IFR conditions (limited visibility or other operational constraints).

INM 6.1 – Integrated Noise Model Version 6.1

INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM (ILS) – A precision landing aid consisting of localizer (azimuth guidance), glide slope (vertical guidance), outer marker (final approach fix), and approach light system.

INSTRUMENT OPERATION – All aircraft arrivals and departures other than local operations.

ITINERANT OPERATION – All aircraft arrivals and departures other than local operations.

J

JET ROUTES – See High Altitude Airways

L

LANDING DIRECTION INDICATOR – A device, which visually indicates the direction in which landings and takeoffs, should be made.

LANDING MINIMUMS/IFR LANDING MINIMUMS – The minimum visibility and cloud ceiling prescribed for landing while using an instrument approach procedure.

LAT – Latitude

LDA – Localizer Type Directional Aid – A NAVAID used for non-precision instrument approaches with utility and accuracy comparable to a localizer but which is not a part of a complete ILS and is not aligned with the runway.

Ldn – Day-Night Average Sound Level

Leq – Equivalent Sound Level

Lmax – Maximum A-weighted Sound Level

LOC – Localizer – Part of ILS that provides course guidance to the runway.

LOM – Compass locator at an outer marker (part of an ILS). Also called COMLO.

LOCAL OPERATION – Operations performed by aircraft which: (a) operate in the local traffic pattern or within sight of the tower; (b) are known to be departing for, or arriving from, flight in local practice areas located within a 20 mile radius of the control tower; or (c) execute simulated instrument approaches or low passes at the airport.

LOW ALTITUDE AIRWAYS – Air routes below 18,000 feet msl. These are referred to as Victor Airways.

LONG – Longitude

M

MALS – Medium (intensity) Approach Light System

MALSF – MALS with sequenced flashing lights

MALSR – MALS with runway alignment indicator lights (RAILS).

MARKER BEACON – A VFR navigational aid, which transmits a narrow beam. It is associated with an airway or an instrument approach.

MASTER PLAN – Long-range plan of airport development requirements.

MGW – Maximum Gross Weight

MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM (MLS) – An instrument system operating in the microwave spectrum which provides lateral and vertical guidance to aircraft having compatible avionics equipment.

MILITARY OPERATIONS – An operation by military aircraft.

MINIMUM DESCENT ALTITUDE (MDA) – The lowest altitude, expressed in feet above mean sea level, 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 is provided.

MIRL – Medium Intensity Runway Lighting

MISSED APPROACH – A prescribed procedure to be followed by aircraft that cannot complete an attempted landing at an airport.

MITL – Medium Intensity Taxiway Lighting

MM – Middle Marker – Part of an ILS that defines a point along the glide slope normally located at or near the point of decision height (DH).

MOA – Military Operating Area

MOVEMENT – Synonymous with the term operation, i.e., a takeoff.

MSL – mean sea level

N

NAS – NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM – The common system of air navigation and air traffic control encompassing communications facilities, air navigation facilities, airways, controlled airspace, special use airspace, and flight procedures authorized by Federal Aviation Regulations for domestic and international aviation.

NAVAID – Navigational aid (see Air Navigation Facility).

NCP – see Noise Compatibility Program

NDB – NON-DIRECTIONAL BEACON – An electronic ground station transmitting in all directions in the L/MF frequency spectrum; provides azimuth guidance to aircraft equipped with direction finder receivers. These facilities are often established with ILS outer markers to provide transition guidance to the ILS system.

NEM – see Noise Exposure Map

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NLR – Noise Level Reduction

NM – Nautical Mile

NOISE ABATEMENT – A procedure for the operation of aircraft at an airport which minimizes the impact of noise on the environs of the airport.

NOISE COMPATIBILITY PROGRAM (NCP) – List of actions the airport proprietor proposes to undertake to minimize noise/land use incompatibilities.

NON-PRECISION APPROACH PROCEDURE/NON-PRECISION APPROACH – A standard instrument approach procedure in which no electronic glide slope is provided.

NOTICE TO AIRMEN/NOTAM – A notice containing information (not known sufficiently in advance to publicize by other means) concerning the establishment of, or change in any component (facility, service, or procedure or hazard on the National Airspace System) the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations.

NPI – Non-precision Instrument runway marking

NPIAS – National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems

O

OBSTRUCTION – Any object/obstacle exceeding the obstruction standards specified by FAR Part 77.

OBSTRUCTION LIGHT – A light, or one of a group of lights, usually red or white, frequently mounted on a surface structure or natural terrain to warn pilots of the presence of an obstruction.

OM – Outer Marker – A marker beacon, which is part of an ILS, located at or near the glide slope intercept altitude of an ILS approach.

OPERATION – An aircraft arrival at (landing) or departure from (takeoff) an airport.

OPNS – Operations

OUTER FIX – A point in the destination terminal area from which aircraft are cleared to the approach fix or final approach course.

P

PAC – Public Advisory Committee

PAL – Planning Activity Level

PAPI – Precision Approach Path Indicator, providing visual vertical guidance information.

PAR – Precision Approach Radar

PI – Precision Instrument Runway Marking

POSITIVE CONTROL AREAS- Airspace wherein aircraft are required to be operated under Instrument Flight Rules, and in contact with Air Traffic Control.

PRECISION APPROACH – A Standard instrument approach in which an electronic glide slope is provided.

PROHIBITED AREA – Airspace of defined dimensions identified by an area on the surface of the earth within which flight is prohibited.

PU – Publicly owned airport

PVT – Privately owned airport

R

RAIL – Runway Alignment Indicator Lights

RAPCON – Radar Approach Control Center

RASP – Regional Airport System Plan

REIL – Runway End Identifier Lights

RELIEVER AIRPORT – An airport which, when certain criteria are met, relieves the aeronautical demands on a high-density air carrier airport.

RESTRICTED AREAS – Airspace of defined dimensions identified by an area on the surface of the earth within which the flight of aircraft, while not wholly prohibited is subjected to restrictions.

ROTATING BEACON – A visual NAVAID displaying flashes of white and/or colored light used to indicate location of an airport.

RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE (RPZ) – The inner portion of the runway approach zone.

RUNWAY SAFETY AREA – An area symmetrical about the runway centerline and extending beyond the ends of the runway which shall be free of obstacles as specified.

RVR – Runway Visual Range

RW and R/W – Runway

S

SALS – Short Approach Light System

SDF – Simplified Directional Facility landing aid providing pattern direction.

SEGMENTED CIRCLE – An airport aid identifying the traffic pattern direction.

SEL – Sound Exposure Level (see Section 6.1.3)

SEPARATION MINIMA – The minimum longitudinal, lateral, or vertical distances by which aircraft are spaced through the application of air traffic control procedures.

SLANT DISTANCE – The distance from the measurement location to the aircraft at the point of closest approach.

SLUCM – Standard Land Use Coding Manual

(S)SALS – Short Approach Light System

SMSA – Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

SOP – Standard Operating Procedures

SSALF – Simplified Short Approach Light System with Sequence Flashing lights.

STOL – Short Takeoff and Landing

STRAIGHT-IN APPROACH – A descent in an approved procedure in which the final approach course alignment and descent gradient permit authorization of straight-in landing minimums.

SYSTEM PLAN – A representation of the aviation facilities required to meet the immediate and future air transportation needs and to achieve the overall goals.

I

TAC – Technical Advisory Committee

TAF – FAA’s Terminal Area Forecast

TACAN – Tactical Air Navigation

TDZ – Touchdown Zone Lights

TERMINAL AIRSPACE – The controlled airspace normally associated with aircraft departure and arrival patterns to/from airports within a terminal system and between adjacent terminal systems in which tower enroute air traffic control service is provided.

TERMINAL RADAR SERVICE AREA (TRSA) – This area identifies the airspace wherein Air Traffic Control provides radar vectoring, sequencing, and separation on a full-time basis for all IFR and participating VFR aircraft. Although pilot participation is urged, it is not mandatory as within a TCA.

TERPS – Terminal Instrument Procedures

T-HANGAR – A T-shaped aircraft hangar which provides shelter for a single airplane.

THRESHOLD – The physical end of runway pavement, useable for aircraft takeoffs and landings.

TOUCH-AND-GO-OPERATION – An operation in which the aircraft lands and begins takeoff roll without stopping.

TRACON – Terminal Radar Approach Control

TRAFFIC PATTERN – The traffic flow that is prescribed for aircraft landing at, taxiing on, and taking off from an airport. The usual components of a traffic pattern are upwind leg, crosswind leg, downwind leg, and final approach.

TRANSIENT OPERATION – An operation performed at an airport by an aircraft that is based at another airport.

TVOR – Terminal Very Frequency Omnidirectional Radio Station

TW and T/W – Taxiway

U

UHF – Ultra High Frequency

UNCONTROLLED AIRSPACE – That portion of the airspace that has not been designated as Continental Control Area, control area, control zone, terminal control area, or terminal control area, or transition area and within which ATC has neither the authority nor the responsibility for exercising control over air traffic.

UNICOM – Radio communications station which provides pilots with pertinent airport information (winds, weather, etc.) at specific airports. Frequently operated by the FBO.

USGS – United States Geological Survey

USWB – United States Weather Bureau

V

VASI – Visual Approach Slope Indicator (providing visual glide path).

VASI-2 - Two-Box Visual Approach Slope Indicator

VASI-4 – Four-Box Visual Approach Slope Indicator

VASI-12 – Twelve-Box Visual Approach Slope Indicator

VECTOR – A heading issued to an aircraft to provide navigational guidance by radar.

VFR – Visual flight Rules that govern flight procedures in good weather.

VFR AIRCRAFT – An aircraft conducting flight in accordance with Visual Flight Rules.

VHF – Very High Frequency

VICTOR AIRWAYS – See Low Altitude Airways

VOR – Very High Frequency Omni-directional Radio Station, the primary facilities for aircraft navigation and establishment of airways.

V/STOL – Vertical/Short Takeoff and Landing

VTOL – Vertical Takeoff and Landing (includes, but is not limited to, helicopters).

W

WARNING AREA – Airspace which may contain hazards to non-participating aircraft

WIND-CONE (WIND SOCK) – Conical wind direction indicator.

WIND TEE – A visual device used to advise pilots about wind direction at an airport