VFR Airspace Quick Reference

V1 Pilot Tutoring · Free study sample · Based on 14 CFR 91.155, 91.117, 91.130–91.135, 91.215, 91.225 and AIM Chapter 3

The airspace classes

Class	What / typical dimensions	Entry & communication	Equipment
A	18,000 ft MSL up to and including FL600 (over the 48 contiguous states and Alaska, plus waters within 12 nm of their coasts).	IFR only: instrument-rated pilot on an IFR clearance. No VFR.	Two-way radio, Mode C transponder, ADS-B Out (1090ES), IFR-equipped.
B	Busiest airports. Surface to typically 10,000 ft MSL; layered "upside-down wedding cake" shelves, individually tailored.	ATC clearance required: you must hear "cleared into the Class Bravo." Two-way radio. Student pilots: logbook endorsement (61.95). Some primary airports (Part 91 App. D, Sec. 4) require at least a private pilot certificate to take off or land.	Mode C transponder + ADS-B Out in Class B, and within the 30 nm **Mode C veil** from surface to 10,000 ft MSL.
C	Airports with radar approach control. Core: 5 nm radius, surface to 4,000 ft AGL. Shelf: 10 nm radius, 1,200 to 4,000 ft AGL. (Outer area ~20 nm, not regulatory.)	Establish two-way radio communication before entering. ATC must reply with your call sign ("Standby" with call sign counts; "Aircraft calling, standby" does not).	Two-way radio, Mode C transponder + ADS-B Out in Class C, and above its ceiling within its lateral limits up to 10,000 ft MSL.
D	Towered airports. Typically surface to 2,500 ft AGL, about 4 nm radius (individually tailored; shown with dashed blue lines).	Establish two-way radio communication before entering (same call sign rule as C). Reverts to E or G when tower is closed.	Two-way radio. No transponder required by Class D itself.
E	All other controlled airspace. Commonly starts at 1,200 ft AGL, 700 ft AGL (magenta shading) or the surface (dashed magenta). Includes federal airways (1,200 AGL to 17,999 MSL) and everything above FL600.	No ATC communication required for VFR.	None for VFR below 10,000 MSL, except Mode C + ADS-B Out at and above 10,000 ft MSL (excluding at and below 2,500 ft AGL).
G	Uncontrolled. Everything not designated A–E, usually from the surface up to where Class E begins.	No ATC communication required (use CTAF at non-towered airports).	None required by Class G itself.

Basic VFR weather minimums (14 CFR 91.155)

Airspace	Flight visibility	Distance from clouds
Class A	Not applicable	Not applicable (IFR only)
Class B	3 SM	Clear of clouds
Class C and **Class D**	3 SM	500 ft below · 1,000 ft above · 2,000 ft horizontal
Class E below 10,000 ft MSL	3 SM	500 ft below · 1,000 ft above · 2,000 ft horizontal
Class E at or above 10,000 ft MSL	5 SM	1,000 ft below · 1,000 ft above · 1 SM horizontal
Class G 1,200 ft AGL or less (regardless of MSL) — **day**	1 SM	Clear of clouds
Class G 1,200 ft AGL or less — **night**	3 SM	500 ft below · 1,000 ft above · 2,000 ft horizontal *
Class G above 1,200 AGL, below 10,000 MSL — **day**	1 SM	500 ft below · 1,000 ft above · 2,000 ft horizontal
Class G above 1,200 AGL, below 10,000 MSL — **night**	3 SM	500 ft below · 1,000 ft above · 2,000 ft horizontal
Class G above 1,200 AGL and at or above 10,000 MSL	5 SM	1,000 ft below · 1,000 ft above · 1 SM horizontal

* Night exception: in Class G, 1 SM and clear of clouds in an airport traffic pattern within ½ SM of the runway. Within the surface area of Class B, C, D or E airspace, no VFR takeoff, landing or pattern entry when the ceiling is below 1,000 ft or ground visibility is below 3 SM unless ATC issues a special VFR clearance (91.155(c)–(d), 91.157).

Speed limits (14 CFR 91.117)

- **250 KIAS** below 10,000 ft MSL.
- **200 KIAS** at or below 2,500 ft AGL within 4 nm of the primary airport of Class C or D airspace (unless ATC authorizes otherwise).
- **200 KIAS** in airspace underlying a Class B shelf, or in a VFR corridor through Class B.
- If the aircraft's minimum safe airspeed is higher, you may fly at that speed.

Equipment quick notes

- Mode C + ADS-B Out (14 CFR 91.215, 91.225): Class A, B, C; the 30 nm Mode C veil; above the ceiling and within the lateral limits of Class B or C, up to 10,000 MSL; Class E at/above 10,000 MSL (excluding at/below 2,500 AGL).
- Aircraft without an electrical system may be exempt from some of these rules; check the regulation.

Special use airspace (AIM 3-4)

- **Prohibited (P-):** flight not allowed (e.g., over the White House).
- **Restricted (R-):** hazards like artillery; entry only with permission from the controlling agency when active.
- **Warning (W-):** like restricted, but over international waters beyond 12 nm.
- **Military Operations Area (MOA):** military training; VFR permitted, use extreme caution and ask ATC/FSS if active.
- **Alert (A-):** high volume of training or unusual activity; VFR permitted, be vigilant.
- **Controlled Firing Area:** activity is suspended when aircraft approach; not charted.
- Also check: **TFRs** (NOTAMs), **National Security Areas**, ADIZ and the Washington DC SFRA.

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