

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 41/19

RUNWAY DETERMINATION AT FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS

The purpose of this aeronautical information circular (AIC) is to advise operators of a change in procedures and phraseology at flight service stations (FSS) across Canada. Beginning 20 November 2019, flight service specialists providing services from FSS with wind instruments located on the aerodrome will no longer provide the choice of "PREFERRED" or "ACTIVE" runways to pilots during the provision of advisory information. The specialists will now determine the runway to be used in the initial advisory based on the following criteria:

- The runway most closely aligned into the wind when the wind speed is 5 knots or more.
- Runway determination is based primarily on the runway most closely aligned into the wind when the wind speed is 5 knots or more.
- Calm wind runway (i.e., wind speed less than 5 knots).
- Current traffic patterns.
- Noise abatements or other restrictions that prohibit the use of certain runway(s).
- Runway conditions (e.g., wet, dry, snow-covered, or sanded).
- "Other" reasons (e.g., ground traffic occupying a runway and an alternate runway is available, cross-wind component, construction issues, wildlife on runway, bird activity, approach aids unavailable, taxiway closures affecting access).

The phraseology associated with the determination of runway will change from "PREFERRED" and "ACTIVE" runways to "RUNWAY".

Background

Many safety reports have indicated that runway incidents or incursions may have been prevented if flight service specialists at uncontrolled airports had phraseology to determine runways. In addition, documented recommendations from pilots suggest that flight service specialists determine the runway to be used to provide a more complete picture of the traffic situation and to provide further assistance to training pilots or pilots with low hours.

Publication

The *Transport Canada Aeronautical Information Manual* (TC AIM – 2020-1 Edition) will be amended in the March 2020 release.

Validity

This AIC is effective 20 November 2019 at 0901Z Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

Further Information

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