



The Leader In Recreational Aviation

Chapter 736 Newsletter for April 2007

FAA seeks pilot input on definition of 'known icing'

The FAA's general counsel published a [letter of interpretation](#) for comment on April 3 in the *Federal Register* regarding a proposed change in the definition of "known icing."

This comes after a [request by AOPA](#) in November 2006 that the FAA rescind an interpretation by the agency's Eastern Region counsel, which said that "high relative humidity" combined with freezing temperatures could constitute known icing conditions. AOPA said such a definition would ground general aviation for most of the winter.

Now, the FAA wants to know what pilots think of its new interpretation before making it final.

The proposed letter of interpretation reads in part, "The ultimate decision whether, when, and where to make the flight rests with the pilot. A pilot also must continue to reevaluate changing weather conditions. If the composite information indicates to a reasonable and prudent pilot that he or she will encounter visible moisture at freezing or near freezing temperatures and that ice will adhere to the aircraft along the proposed route and altitude of flight, then known icing conditions likely exist. If the AFM prohibits flight in known icing conditions and the pilot operates in such conditions, the FAA could take enforcement action."

Pilots are encouraged to [submit their comments on the proposed definition online](#) or to:

Docket Management Facility
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Room PL-401
Washington, DC 20590-0001

New AirVenture Arrival ATIS Frequency

The FAA will use a new frequency for the AirVenture 2007 Arrival ATIS this year. The frequency will have a higher-powered transmitter, allowing pilots at a distance from Oshkosh to receive ATIS information sooner. This is one the important changes that will appear in the 2007 EAA AirVenture NOTAM, and all pilots planning to fly in to Wittman Regional Airport during the week are urged to obtain a copy.

Printed booklets are expected to be available in May, and you can pre-order your copy through EAA Membership Services, 800-JOIN-EAA (564-6322). A downloadable version will also soon be available on the [AirVenture 'Pilot Information' page](#).

Pilot input saves airport advisory service

Thanks to feedback from pilots who use the airport advisory service (AAS), the FAA has instructed Lockheed Martin to continue the service at the 20 airports it is currently offered.

Last year, the FAA was considering allowing Lockheed to **discontinue AAS** and asked for pilot input. That's because AAS is offered only at airports with a flight service station on the field, and Lockheed is in the process of **consolidating** some of those facilities.

Many pilots stressed that AAS helped enhance safety in the airport environment.

"Because of pilot input, AAS will continue to be provided at the existing 20 locations, even if the facility is no longer located at the airport," said Melissa Rudinger, AOPA vice president of regulatory affairs. "This is a perfect example of how involved pilots can influence what air traffic services are offered."

With AAS, pilots receive airport information from flight service specialists, including weather updates, wind and altimeter information, runway usage, and any known traffic in the area.

Upcoming FAA Safety Briefings

Title	"Personal Minimums"
Date and Time	Wednesday, April 25, 2007, starting at 6:00 pm
Speaker(s)	John Wood
Brief Description	Learn how to establish personal minimums to make your flying safer.
Location of Event	Conference Room- Portland Jetport 1001 Westbrook Street Portland, ME 04102
Directions to Venue	I-95 to Exit 46 (Portland Jetport). Follow signs for Airport. Conference room is on second floor in Airline Terminal.
Seating	30 seats at the facility <u>Click here to register online now!</u>
Sponsoring Division	Portland FSDO, FAASTeam
Contact Information	Dennis Melton Phone: 207-653-1877 dmelton@mac.com
Full Description	Do you consider, during your preflight preparation, your personal minimums for the upcoming flight? The FARs and AIM provide mandates and guidance, but can't cover all situations at all pilot experience levels. Say, for example, you have a current BFR and medical but performed your most recent flight 75 days ago. You are planning to fly your trusty CE-172 out of a short, grass field

with 2 passengers and baggage. The temp is 80F and there are tall trees at each end of the field. The aircraft performance charts say it will work, but without much room to spare. What is your comfort level? Can you do this safely? The time to make that decision is not at the airport with your passengers prodding you to go. Come learn how to establish a set of personal minimums to help guide you to a good go/no-go decision.

Sponsored by the Bald Eagle Flying Club.

Title	Mountain Flying
Date and Time	Wednesday, May 9, 2007, starting at 6:00 pm
Speaker(s)	John Wood
Brief Description	Learn how to fly safely in mountainous terrain.
Location of Event	Falmouth Middle School 52 Woodville Road Falmouth, ME 04105
Directions to Venue	I-495 (Maine Turnpike) to Exit 10. Left at light. At next light, take right onto Leighton Rd. Go to end and take right onto Falmouth Rd. Go past town hall and take first left onto Woodville Rd. Middle School is ahead on left.
Seating	100 seats at the facility. <u>Click here to register online now!</u>
Sponsoring Division	FAASTeam, Portland FSDO
Contact Information	Lucky D'Ascanio Phone: 207-781-5253 x313 <u>ldascanio@town.falmouth.me.us</u>
Full Description	

You don't have to fly in the Rockies to find mountains. We have them right here in our backyard in New England. Do you know how to operate safely around mountainous terrain? What planning is necessary? We will use video and interactive discussion to explore the dangers of mountain flying and the procedures to stay safe. Join us for a discussion of information that could save your life.

Sponsored by Falmouth Community Programs.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at OWK on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.