



# AIRSPACE CLASSES

## 1. Introduction

Even if the sky may appear always the same, air traffic management requires the airspace to be divided in some classes, named with the first 7 alphabetic letters (A to G).  
From **A** to **G**, airspaces become less restrictive.

Each State may also establish a limited region within the airspace, extending both vertically and horizontally where flying might be prohibited, restricted or to be conducted with caution.

## 2. Airspace classes

In each airspace type, Air Traffic Services (ATS) provided and flight requirements change. As a rule of thumb, the best way for learning and not forget them is by noticing what is new in each airspace, regarding the previous. Below, all airspaces will be analysed.

### 2.1. Class A airspace

Class A airspace is a controlled airspace.

In class A airspace, IFR flights only are permitted (**No VFR flights**).

All flights are provided with air traffic control service and are separated from each other.

Type of flight	Separation provided	Services provided	Speed limit	Radio Communication	ATC clearance
<b>IFR</b>	Yes, between IFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	No	Continuous, two ways	Required
<b>VFR</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

In some countries, VFR can be permitted on class A airspace with specific conditions and requirements. All exceptions are published on charts.

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## 2.2. Class B airspace

Class B airspace is a controlled airspace.  
In class B airspace, IFR and VFR flights are permitted.

All flights are provided with air traffic control service and are separated from each other.

Type of flight	Separation provided	Services provided	Speed limit	Radio Communication	ATC clearance
<b>IFR</b>	Yes, between IFR and between IFR and VFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	No	Continuous, two ways	Required
<b>VFR</b>	Yes, between VFR and between VFR and IFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	No	Continuous, two ways	Required

## 2.3. Class C airspace

Class C airspace is a controlled airspace.  
In class C airspace, IFR and VFR flights are permitted.

All flights are provided with air traffic control service and IFR flights are separated from other IFR flights and from VFR flights. VFR flights are separated from IFR flights and receive only traffic information with respect to other VFR flights.

Type of flight	Separation provided	services provided	Speed limit	Radio Communication	ATC clearance
<b>IFR</b>	Yes, between IFR and between IFR and VFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	No	Continuous, two ways	Required
<b>VFR</b>	Yes, between VFR and IFR Only Traffic Information between VFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Continuous, two ways	Required

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## 2.4. Class D airspace

Class D airspace is a controlled airspace.  
In class D airspace, IFR and VFR flights are permitted.

All flights are provided with air traffic control service, IFR flights are separated from other IFR flights and receive traffic information with respect to VFR flights, VFR flights receive traffic information with respect to all other flights.

IFR aircraft are separated from VFR ones, but VFR aircraft are not separated from IFR ones. VFR needs not to be separated from IFR but they receive traffic information. The responsibility for separation is given to the VFR pilot.

This is known as essential traffic, which by definition means: controlled traffic to which ATC separation is applicable (in this case, IFR traffic) that is not or will not be separated from other particular controlled traffic (in this case, VFR traffic) by the appropriate separation minima.

Type of flight	Separation provided	Services provided	Speed limit	Radio Communication	ATC clearance
<b>IFR</b>	Yes, between IFR only Traffic Information between IFR and VFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Continuous, two ways	Required
<b>VFR</b>	Only Traffic Information between VFR and between VFR and IFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Continuous, two ways	Required

Note that a special VFR shall be separated from other traffic like IFR ones.  
Special VFR flight is known as a VFR flight cleared by air traffic control to operate within a control zone in meteorological conditions below VMC.  
Note that special VFR rule exists only in some countries. Consult your country regulation publication if you are permitted to use this special rule.

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## 2.5. Class E airspace

Class E airspace is a controlled airspace.  
In class E airspace, IFR and VFR flights are permitted.

IFR flights are provided with air traffic control service and are separated from other IFR flights. All flights receive traffic information as far as is practical. Class E shall not be used for control zones.

Type of flight	Separation provided	Services provided	Speed limit	Radio Communication	ATC clearance
<b>IFR</b>	Yes, between IFR only Traffic Information between VFR and IFR	Air Traffic Control Flight Information Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Continuous, two ways	Required
<b>VFR</b>	Only Traffic Information between VFR and between VFR and IFR	Flight Information Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Not required	Not Required

## 2.6. Class F airspace

Class F airspace is a non-controlled airspace.  
In class F airspace, IFR and VFR flights are permitted.

IFR and VFR flights are permitted, all participating IFR flights receive an air traffic advisory service and all flights receive flight information service if requested.

Type of flight	Separation provided	Services provided	Speed limit	Radio Communication	ATC clearance
<b>IFR</b>	Traffic Information between VFR and IFR	Flight Information Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Continuous, two ways	Not Required
<b>VFR</b>	No separation	Flight Information on request Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Not required	Not Required

In some countries this airspace does not exist.  
A non-controlled airspace is not equal to airspace without air traffic controllers.

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## 2.7. Class G airspace

Class G airspace is a non-controlled airspace.  
In class G airspace, IFR and VFR flights are permitted.

IFR and VFR flights are permitted and receive flight information service if requested.

Type of flight	Separation provided	Services provided	Speed limit	Radio Communication	ATC clearance
<b>IFR</b>	No separation Traffic Information between VFR and IFR on request	Flight Information on request Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Continuous, two ways	Not Required
<b>VFR</b>	Traffic Information between VFR and IFR on request	Flight Information on request Alerting	250KT Below 10000ft/ FL100	Not required	Not Required

A non-controlled airspace is not equal to airspace without air traffic controllers.

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