

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 7/20

CHANGE TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) PHRASEOLOGY WHEN A RUNWAY IS TEMPORARILY SHORTENED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION

Purpose of the Circular

This circular is to advise pilots of amended air traffic control (ATC) phraseology when a runway is temporarily shortened due to construction. This new phraseology will be communicated by tower controllers at airports where runways that are under construction are still being used for operations with reduced lengths.

Background

Recent safety events revealed common misunderstandings when ATC clearances were given to pilots operating on runways shortened due to construction. When an airport becomes affected by construction activities that result in changes to the available runway length, it is important that we consider the additional risks caused by construction and ensure that the risks are mitigated.

These phraseology changes are intended to improve the operating environment at controlled airports that temporarily reduce the available length of a runway during construction.

Amended Phraseology

Whenever a runway length has been temporarily shortened due to construction, the word "shortened" will be used by tower controllers immediately following the runway number on initial contact with arrivals and for all line up, take off, and landing clearances.

The use of the word "shortened" aligns with the changes to phraseology made by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in 2011.

These changes do not transfer pilot responsibility to the controller but ensure that changes in runway length due to construction are communicated as an additional layer of safety.

Examples of Amended Phraseology:

Line Up Instructions	LINE UP RUNWAY ONE-SIX SHORTENED
Landing Clearance	CLEARED TO LAND RUNWAY THREE-THREE RIGHT SHORTENED

Further Information

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