

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 19/17

OBSTACLE CLEARANCE

When a direct route is given, air traffic control (ATC) is responsible for obstacle clearance. Provided that the altitude is at or above the minimum instrument flight rules (IFR) altitude for the controlled airspace where the pilot intends to operate, ATC may use "direct" in a route clearance. ATC may clear aircraft that are traversing airways or air routes below the minimum en route altitude (MEA), but not below the applicable minimum IFR altitude.

Within air traffic service (ATS) surveillance coverage, it is common for controllers to issue the minimum vectoring altitude (MVA) when issuing direct routes. An MVA can be lower than a published minimum IFR altitude (minimum sector altitude [MSA], minimum obstacle clearance altitude [MOCA], MEA, or area minimum altitude [AMA]).

Conclusion

All ATC assigned altitudes provide obstacle clearance.

For further information, please contact:

NAV CANADA
77 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa ON K1P 5L6
Attn: Claude Fortier, Manager
Air Traffic Services, Standards and Procedures

Tel.: 613-563-5738
E-mail: claudio.fortier@navcanada.ca



James Ferrier
Manager, Aeronautical Information Management