

# AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 2/21

## STOP BAR PROCEDURES

The purpose of this aeronautical information circular (AIC) is to remind pilots, vehicle drivers, and all air traffic controllers (ATC) working at airports with physical stop bars that:

**AN AIRCRAFT OR VEHICLE MUST NEVER CROSS AN ILLUMINATED STOP BAR**

### Background

From the *Transport Canada Aeronautical Information Manual* (TC AIM – TP14371E) Aerodromes (AGA) Section 7.10.3:

“A stop bar is provided at every runway-holding position serving a runway intended to be used in visibility conditions below RVR 1200 (¼ SM). Stop bars are located across the taxiway at the desired stopping point for traffic and consist of lights spaced at intervals of 3 m across the taxiway. They show red in the intended direction of approach to the intersection or runway-holding position.”

NAV CANADA, in collaboration with airlines and airport operators, has updated procedures in the Manual of Air Traffic Services (MATS) to ensure a consistent application of stop bar procedures by ATC across Canada. The use of stop bars in a non-standard manner creates confusion and could possibly lead to serious incidents and accidents.

### Reminder to Pilots and Vehicle Drivers

- Do not, under any circumstances, cross an illuminated stop bar.
- ATC switching the illuminated stop bar off does not constitute a clearance to enter the runway.
- Only proceed past a stop bar when ATC provides the appropriate verbal clearance **AND** switches the illuminated stop bar off.
- If ATC issues a clearance to enter the runway and the stop bar remains on:
  - **DO NOT PROCEED;**
  - advise ATC that the stop bar is still on; and
  - wait for further clearance.

### Reminder to Air Traffic Control

- Do not, under any circumstances, instruct an aircraft or vehicle to cross an illuminated stop bar.
- Where illuminated stop bars are used at runway holding positions, switch them off only when clearance has been given for an aircraft or vehicle to enter the runway.
- If a stop bar becomes unserviceable and cannot be switched off, advise the airport operator so that the fault may be fixed.

## Expiry

This AIC expires on 9 September 2021.

## Further Information

For further information, please contact:

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