

Cancellation of IFR

Flight Rule Changes and Procedures

IFR to VFR Transition

When an aircraft operating under **Instrument Flight Rules (IFR)** enters **Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC)**, it shall not cancel its IFR flight unless it is expected that VMC will be maintained for a reasonable period.

An aircraft electing to transition from **IFR to Visual Flight Rules (VFR)** must:

- **Notify ATC** that the IFR flight is cancelled.
- **Communicate** the necessary changes to the flight plan.

A pilot may cancel IFR, provided:

- The aircraft is in **VMC**.
- The aircraft is **outside Class A or B airspace**.
- It is expected that the flight will not return to **IMC**.

If IFR is cancelled, **ATC ceases IFR control services**, but if the aircraft is in **Class C airspace**, conflict resolution continues. If the IFR flight plan is closed, **Alerting Services** are also cancelled.

Y and Z Flight Rules

Y Flight Rules (IFR to VFR)

A flight that begins **under IFR** and transitions to **VFR**.

Z Flight Rules (VFR to IFR)

A flight that begins **under VFR** and transitions to **IFR**.

Flight Rule Codes

- **I** - Entire flight under IFR.
- **V** - Entire flight under VFR.
- **Y** - IFR transitioning to VFR.
- **Z** - VFR transitioning to IFR.

The **transition point** must be specified in the flight plan. If there are multiple transitions, the first rule is used (e.g., VFR/IFR/VFR = "Z").

Yankee Flight Rule (Y)

When **Y flight rules** are used:

- The **IFR route** is filed up to the last IFR waypoint.
- The **VFR route** follows, with "VFR" added in the plan.
- "DCT" may be used if the VFR plan is not mandatory.

Example Route:

```
FOBAC R722 MABAP VFR DCT
```

This means:

- The flight departs **IFR** and remains IFR **until MABAP**.
- After MABAP, the flight transitions to **VFR**.

Phraseology:

✈ "Request cancelling my IFR flight." ☐ "After MABAP, report VMC to cancel IFR." ✈ "At MABAP, under VMC conditions." ☐ "IFR CANCELLED AT 10:00 UTC, continue under visual flight rules."

Zulu Flight Rule (Z)

When **Z flight rules** are used:

- The **VFR route** is filed up to the first IFR waypoint.
- "IFR" is added at the first IFR point with **altitude and true airspeed**.
- The detailed IFR route continues to the destination.

Example Route:

```
TUC DCT MON/N0280F130 IFR A411 BSKO
```

This means:

- The flight departs **VFR** and remains VFR **until MON**.
- At MON, the flight transitions to **IFR at FL130 with 280 knots TAS**.

Phraseology:

☐ "At TUC, request IFR at MON." ☐ "Report MON, climb FL140." ☐ "At MON." ☐ "IFR activated at 10:00 UTC, route BSKO."

Flight Rule Changes in Flight

A pilot can request a **flight rule change** in-flight. This must be coordinated with ATC, who will:

- **Prescribe conditions** for the change.
- **Determine limitations** for the new flight plan submission.

Changing from IFR to VFR

A pilot changing from **IFR to VFR** must:

- Notify ATC that **IFR is cancelled**.
- Communicate changes to the **current flight plan**.

ATC will acknowledge the cancellation: *"IFR FLIGHT CANCELLED AT 10:00 UTC."*

If IMC is expected, ATC may advise: *"Instrument Meteorological Conditions reported/forecast in the vicinity of ___."*

ATC will inform the next controller about the IFR cancellation (on VATSIM, only the next controller is informed).

Changing from VFR to IFR

A pilot switching **from VFR to IFR** must:

- Communicate the necessary **flight plan changes**.
- Submit the **updated flight plan** to ATC.
- Obtain an **IFR clearance** before proceeding in controlled airspace.

This change is typically made when **VFR minima** cannot be maintained due to worsening weather.

VFR Departure of an IFR Flight

A flight plan may be **IFR**, but if departing from an uncontrolled or non-IFR airfield, the departure may be **VFR under VMC conditions**.

To transition to IFR:

- The pilot **contacts the en-route controller** once airborne.
- The **controller issues IFR clearance** once the aircraft is above **Minimum Radar Vectoring Altitude (MRVA)**.

Best Practices:

- **Climb to a safe altitude** (e.g., minimum sector altitude).

- **Contact en-route ATC before takeoff** to negotiate the **first contact point and altitude**.

IFR Outside Controlled Airspace

An IFR flight operating **outside controlled airspace** shall:

- Maintain an **air-ground voice communication watch** on the appropriate frequency.
- Establish two-way communication with the air traffic services unit providing flight information service as necessary.

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