

SVFR and NVFR

Night VFR (NVFR) refers to **visual flight operations conducted at night**. The applicable period is from the **beginning of civil twilight to the end of civil dawn**. Accurate timing for these periods can be referenced in published tables.

Key Considerations for Controllers

Controllers managing NVFR traffic must be aware of two primary aspects:

Continuous Radio Communication Requirement

For **safety reasons**, NVFR pilots must maintain **continuous two-way radio communication** throughout their flight.

- NVFR aircraft departing a **controlled aerodrome** must be **handed off** from the tower controller to the appropriate **radar (approach or center) controller**.
- NVFR aircraft departing from an **uncontrolled aerodrome (AFIS station)** must **self-transfer** to the relevant **radar frequency**.
- Unlike standard VFR flights, pilots **must not be allowed to leave the frequency** when reaching the **outer reporting point**. Instead, they must be transferred to the **appropriate radar controller**.

Flight Plan Requirement for NVFR Flights

- **A flight plan is mandatory** when an NVFR aircraft leaves the immediate vicinity of the departure aerodrome.
- Pilots are responsible for ensuring their **NVFR flight plan is filed and activated** before departure.

Myth: NVFR Clearance

A common **misconception** is that a **“Night VFR clearance”** exists, similar to a **Special VFR (SVFR) clearance**.

Clarification:

- There is **no separate NVFR clearance**.
- NVFR flights **follow standard VFR entry, exit, and routing procedures**, with the additional requirement of continuous **radio contact** and a **filed flight plan** when leaving the airport vicinity.

Phraseology Example

Handoff from Tower to Radar Controller

“ [CALLSIGN], CONTACT [RADAR UNIT] ON [FREQUENCY].

Example:

“ Cessna 45X, contact Approach on 123.450.

Flight Plan Confirmation

“ [CALLSIGN], CONFIRM FLIGHT PLAN FILED FOR NIGHT VFR.

Example:

“ Piper 67Y, confirm flight plan filed for Night VFR.

Operational Summary

Requirement	Standard VFR	Night VFR (NVFR)
Continuous Radio Contact	Not always required	Mandatory
Flight Plan Required	Only for cross-border flights	Required when leaving aerodrome vicinity
Handoff to Radar	Not always required	Mandatory
Clearance Type	VFR clearance	No separate NVFR clearance

By adhering to these procedures, **controllers can ensure safe and efficient handling of NVFR operations**, maintaining proper separation and communication with all aircraft operating under night visual flight rules.