

# Glossary of Terms



*(Disclaimer) You'll find in aviation that we like to use acronyms and fancy sounding stuff.*

## ADSB

New age license in the sky. Tells ATC, FAA, other planes, users on smart phones with airplane finder apps, etc. exactly what tail number, course, destination, altitude, speed, etc. a plane is. Required whenever a transponder is required, plus above a C airspace and above and below a B airspace. Planes do not "need" unless in the required airspace but the FAA will call and harass you if you don't have it

## Aft Cargo Hold

The aft cargo hold is found onboard the aircraft and is located at the back of the aircraft. It is not accessible during flight.

## Air Charter Operator

The party responsible for the safety, maintenance, operations, and licensing of an aircraft on behalf of the aircraft's owner. The operator may or may not be the owner of the aircraft.

## Approach Minimums

Approach minimums occur when the aircraft has reached the minimum altitude to land. At this point, the pilot must make the decision to land on the runway or go around and re-approach for landing.

## ARGUS

ARGUS refers to both ARGUS International and its rating system, of the same name, for aircraft operators. As a specialized aviation services company, ARGUS provides ratings, reports, and other data to help people make informed decisions about who they fly with for charter.

## Black Out Days

Some private jet operators, memberships, and jet cards have black out days. These are days that your options are limited or unavailable for chartering a private flight. These days often occur during busy seasons or on holidays.

## Carbon Offset

Carbon offsets are available to purchase as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A single carbon offset is equivalent to a reduction of one metric ton of carbon dioxide.

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## Ceiling

In aviation, the ceiling refers to the lowest layer of clouds present and the visibility available based on weather conditions, such as having fog present.

## Chief Pilot

The chief pilot oversees flight and ground crew to ensure they are in compliance with federal and state laws, as well as federal aviation regulations.

## Contaminated Runway

This term refers to a runway that is covered with standing water, loose snow, compacted ice and snow, or slush, with at least 25% of the surface area covered.

## Deicing

When there is a buildup of ice on an aircraft, the plane will require deicing. This process uses a heated mixture of chemicals, sprayed at high pressure, to remove ice from the tail, nose, and wings of the aircraft. When flying in colder months, it is important to remember that deicing may be required prior to your flight and will incur an additional fee.

## Empty Legs/Deadheads

These flights are used to reposition an aircraft and contain no passengers. By booking a one-way, empty leg flight, customers chartering this private flight can expect to pay less than a traditional private charter.

## FAA

The FAA, or Federal Aviation Administration, is a subset of the U.S. Department of Transportation and regulates operations of air commerce, aircraft, air traffic control, airports, and navigable airspace throughout the nation.

## FAR

The rules put in place by the FAA are known as the Federal Aviation Regulations, or FAR. All air carriers, pilots, and operators that work in the U.S. must adhere to the FAR.

## FBO/Executive Terminal

An FBO is a fixed-base operator. FBOs are airport service centers that offer several services to fliers and operators including aircraft maintenance, lounge facilities, cabin supplies, and hangars for aircraft before and after flight. FBOs are colloquially known as the Executive Terminal, where customers board their respective aircraft

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## FET

FET, or federal excise tax, is a tax that is imposed on certain services, activities, and goods. This is assessed on all transportation of people in the United States and within 225 miles of its borders in Canada and Mexico on both private charter and commercial airline flights. As of 2021, it's 7.5% of the total cost.

## Flight Crew

The flight crew is the staff aboard an aircraft which operates the aircraft during flight. Depending on the size of the aircraft, the flight crew will range in size from just a single pilot to two pilots and a cabin crew.

- PIC: The PIC is the pilot in command and is the pilot who is responsible for operating the aircraft during flight and maintaining the safety of everyone aboard the aircraft.
- SIC: When a flight has a second pilot, that pilot is known as the SIC, or second in command.
- Flight Attendant: On larger aircraft, one or more flight attendants make up the cabin crew and work to ensure the safety and comfort of all passengers during flight.

## FlightSafety International

FlightSafety International is an aviation training company that was founded in 1951. They have a team of instructors providing courses in aviation safety training and manufacture advanced flight simulators to help provide realistic training experiences.

## Fractional Ownership

As it relates to private air travel, an individual can purchase part of an aircraft and become a fractional owner. Fractional ownership allows the individual to have interests in an aircraft that is operated as part of a company's fleet and are able to use the aircraft on a pay-by-the-hour-(or day)-basis. Fractional owners will also pay a fee to the fractional management company that operates the asset on their behalf.

## Fuel Stops

Many charter flights are nonstop, but when refueling is required to reach the destination, a typical fuel stop will take anywhere from 30-60 minutes depending on the size of the aircraft. This normally occurs at an FBO.

## Headwind

Air that is moving in the opposite direction that the aircraft is traveling is known as a headwind.

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## Heavy Jet

A heavy jet is an aircraft that has a minimum takeoff weight of 40,001-90,000 lbs. Examples of heavy jets include the Bombardier Challenger 600, the Dassault Falcon 900, and the Gulfstream G-II/III/IV.

## IFR/VFR

IFR, or Instrument Flight Rules, and VFR, or Visual Flight Rules, are the rules laid out by the FAA for operating any type of aircraft. Both rules apply to how pilots must operate the plane depending on the weather conditions. IFR requires a smaller ceiling above ground and shorter visibility, while VFR requires a larger ceiling and greater visibility.

- IFR = Instrument flight rules -ATC (air traffic control) tells you where to go, what altitude, what speed, etc
- VFR = visual flight rules -mind your own business, you conduct your own flight and altitude, but you have to avoid certain airspaces that you need clearance to enter

## IS-BAO

The IS-BAO is the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations created by the International Business Aviation Council. These standards are codes laid out for flight operations to ensure that safety and professionalism is maintained during all flights.

## Jet Card

A jet card is a way to charter a private flight by pre-paying into a company's program. An entry-level jet card will typically require a deposit of \$100,000 to \$150,000 and buys you between 10 and 25 hours of flight time.

## Jet Charter

The term used to describe hiring a crew and renting an aircraft for private air travel.

## Jet Charter Broker

An agent that works on behalf of a customer's interests to charter a private jet by collaborating with aircraft operators and other service providers.

## Knot

The most common unit of measurement for the airspeed of an aircraft is a knot. A knot is equivalent to one nautical mile per hour.

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## Lavatory

An aircraft lavatory can be defined in one of three ways: a room similar to a bathroom with a washbowl and toilet, an area with just a washbowl, or an area with just a flush toilet. Many private charters include a full lavatory onboard, but depending on the size of the aircraft, this may vary.

## Light Jet

A light jet is a small jet that can carry up to eight passengers, with a maximum takeoff weight of 10,001-20,000 lbs. Examples of light jets include the Beechcraft Premier, the Learjet 35, and the Cessna Citation II Bravo.

## Midsize Jet

Midsize jets can carry small groups of people further distances than a light jet. Depending on size, the maximum takeoff weight for a midsize jet is between 20,001-30,000 lbs. Examples of midsize jets include the Cessna Citation Excel, the Hawker 800, and the Gulfstream G-150.

## Nautical Mile

A nautical mile is the unit of measurement used to calculate distances in air navigation.

## Payload

Cargo or passengers on a flight are referred to as the payload, or the revenue generating items aboard the aircraft during operation. The payload is not necessary for the operation of the flight itself.

## Positioning/Repositioning

Positioning refers to the location of an aircraft, after it leaves its originating airport. Repositioning is when an aircraft must leave its current location to be made available to passengers departing from a different location.

## Precipitation

Precipitation is defined as water, in any form, that is present in the atmosphere. Precipitation comes in several forms ranging from fog to snow.

## Private Jet

A private jet is an aircraft that is owned by a private individual or operator.

## Private Jet Charter

A private jet charter is the process of hiring a private jet to use for a specific purpose including business or personal travel.

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## Private Jet Membership

Some companies offer private jet memberships, which require customers to pay an annual fee to unlock private aviation services. Each membership has different stipulations regarding the type of jet you can access, as well as additional fees for other amenities.

## Ramp Access

Ramp access is offered by many FBOs and allows passengers to drive their car right up to the jet. This dramatically reduces boarding time and alleviates the stress of flying with multiple suitcases, pets, and other cargo.

## Recurrent Training

To ensure pilots are always improving their skillset, maintaining safety protocols, and learning new practices, they are required to attend recurrent training. These refresher courses are completed on a regular basis throughout the year and some are done annually or biannually. Recurrent training generally includes written and practical evaluations and are often completed in person and online. The FAA regulates the ongoing schedule in which recurrent training must be completed.

## Runway Minimums

The minimum length a runway must be for a given size of aircraft to land on safely is known as the runway minimum.

## Statute Mile

A statute mile is a measure of distance which equals 5,280 feet.

## Tail Number/Call Sign

A tail number is the registration number assigned to a particular aircraft and is painted on the tail. Similar to a license plate, the tail number is a form of identification. A call sign is a combination of letters and numbers used to identify an operator and sometimes the tail number and call sign for a particular aircraft will be the same.

## Tailwind

A tailwind is air that is moving in the direction that an aircraft is flying (blowing from behind). For takeoff and landing, headwinds are more favorable than a tailwind.

## Transponder

Transponder = old school license in the sky. Reports basic altitude and location. Reports a squawk code such as 1200 for VFR (minding my own business) or a specifically assigned code when on an IFR flight plan. Or, 7500 for hijacking, 7600 lost comms, 7700 for general emergency like fire,

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engine failure, or sick pax. Required for IFR flight and to enter C or B airspace and above 18,000 feet. Planes do not "need" unless in the required airspace but the FAA will call and harass you if you don't have it

## Turbulence

When there are sudden changes to the airflow during flight, turbulence occurs. During periods of turbulence, and depending on the severity, a pilot may reduce airspeed to alleviate discomfort and avoid plane damage. Turbulence is completely normal and nothing more than a nuisance. It helps to remember that hitting a patch of turbulence during a flight is similar to hitting a bump in the road while driving in a car.

## Type Ratings

A type rating is the standard required by the FAA for pilots to operate particular types of aircraft.

## VFR/IFR

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## Wyvern

Wyvern is a consulting firm that offers aircraft safety auditing to operators in the U.S.