

Airspace and VFR Weather Minimums Cheat Sheet

For every airspace answer: entry, communication, equipment, visibility/cloud clearance, and pilot requirements.

CONTROLLED AIRSPACE

- Class B: explicit ATC clearance; 3 SM and clear of clouds; Mode C/ADS-B rules; student endorsement for listed airports.
- Class C: establish two-way radio communication before entry (ATC replies with your callsign); transponder/altitude reporting and ADS-B Out as required.
- Class D: establish two-way communication before entry; 3 SM and 500 below/1,000 above/2,000 horizontal.
- Class E: no VFR ATC clearance generally required; below 10,000 MSL use 3-152; at/above 10,000 MSL use 5 SM, 1,000 below/above, 1 SM horizontal.

CLASS G

- $\leq 1,200$ AGL day: 1 SM and clear of clouds.
- $\leq 1,200$ AGL night: generally 3-152; limited traffic-pattern exception may apply.
- $> 1,200$ AGL and $< 10,000$ MSL: day 1-152; night 3-152.
- $> 1,200$ AGL and $\geq 10,000$ MSL: 5 SM, 1,000 below/above, 1 SM horizontal.

SPECIAL VFR

- ATC clearance in controlled surface area; at least 1 SM flight visibility and clear of clouds.
- For airplanes at night, PIC must be instrument rated/current as applicable and aircraft IFR equipped, except where the rule provides otherwise.

EQUIPMENT HOT SPOTS

- Transponder/Mode C: Class A/B/C; within 30 NM Mode C veil to 10,000 MSL; above B/C shelves to 10,000 MSL; $\geq 10,000$ MSL excluding $\leq 2,500$ AGL; exceptions apply.
- ADS-B Out airspace is similar but not identical; verify 91.225 and any authorization before flight.
- Mode C/ADS-B requirements do not themselves grant airspace entry.

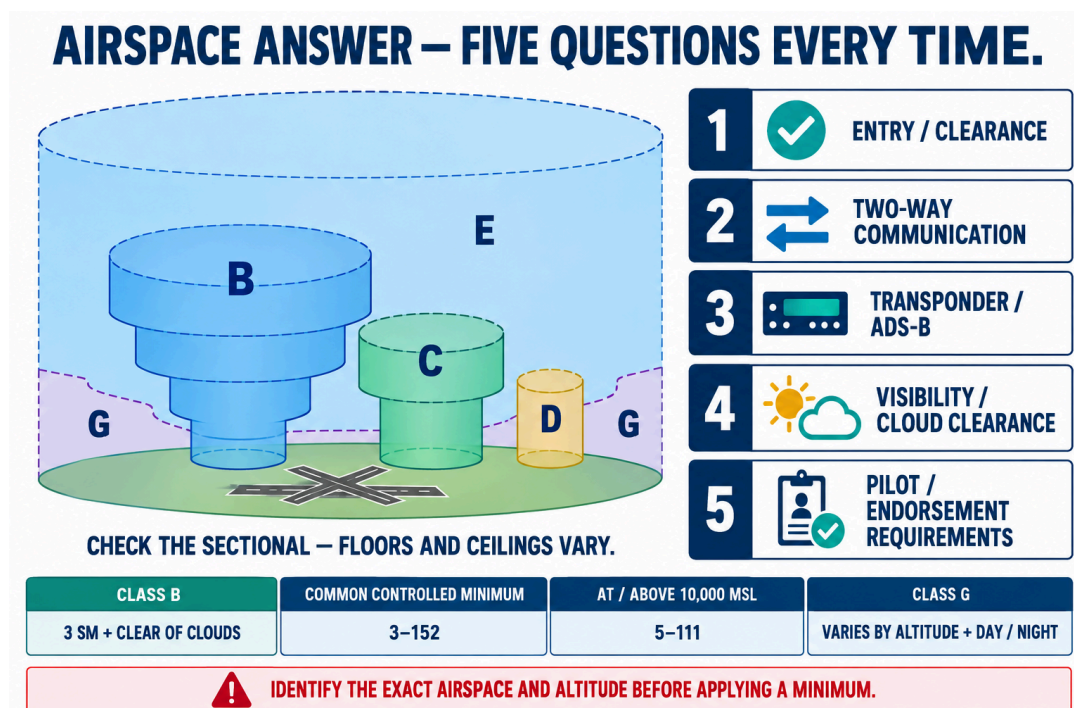
SPECIAL USE / OTHER

- Prohibited: no entry. Restricted: permission from controlling/using agency when active. MOA: VFR allowed but use extreme caution.
- Warning area, alert area, controlled firing area, TFR, SFRA, TRSA, and parachute/glider activity each require correct chart/NOTAM interpretation.

CHECKRIDE METHOD

- Point to the sectional boundary, identify floors/ceilings, then state entry, radio, equipment, weather minima, and risk.

VISUAL SUMMARY



Use the five-question method; charted floors and ceilings plus the exact operating context determine requirements.

Primary references: 14 CFR 71, 91.131, 91.129, 91.130, 91.155, 91.157, 91.215, 91.225; FAA AIM.