

What are Instrument Flight Rules? - Flight Training

Date: June 9, 2010 8:57 AM

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Source: [L.A. Times](#)

Tags: [aircraft](#), [aviator college](#), [FAA](#), [flight simulators](#), [flight training](#), [pilot](#)

Permalink: <http://bit.ly/dzusl2>

During [flight training](#) to become a pilot, you will learn about the way airports operate. [The Federal Aviation Administration](#) regulates the departure routes of airplanes from all airports, especially in poor weather conditions. Yesterday, the FAA ended a controversial flight path test in Santa Monica.

According to the [Los Angeles Times](#):

The federal government Tuesday ended its 180-day test of a controversial departure route from Santa Monica Municipal Airport that resulted in thousands of noise complaints from densely populated neighborhoods along the flight path.

The Federal Aviation Administration's experiment, which began Dec. 10, directed departing propeller planes to turn right over the neighborhoods of Sunset Park and Ocean Park when flying under instrument flight rules, such as during foggy or cloudy weather.

FAA officials and airport officials say they will analyze the noise complaints, potential benefits and alternative flight paths to determine whether the experimental departure route should be made permanent. FAA officials plan to release a final report in August.

What are Instrument Flight Rules?

Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) are regulations and protocols for flying an aircraft by using solely the instrument panel for navigation. This is necessary for when weather conditions are poor and the pilot cannot see outside the cockpit windows.

IFR-rated pilots can fly without any outside vision at all, they can rely entirely on the instrument panel inside the cockpit. They are authorized to fly through clouds. IFR is also a procedure designed to maintain separation from other aircraft to avoid any chance of collision.

Primary procedures of navigation under IFR are either through radio beacons on the ground, or GPS systems.

In [flight training](#) students are trained for their [Instrument Rating](#) with flight simulators and blockcalls that help the pilot concentrate entirely on the instrument panel.

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