

ENR 1.3 INSTRUMENT FLIGHT RULES

1 IFR Flight

SERA.2005 Compliance with the Rules of the Air and SERA.5015 Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) — Rules Applicable to All IFR Flights as applied within UK Airspace.

1.1 Aircraft Equipment

1.1.1 Aircraft shall be equipped with suitable instruments and with navigation equipment appropriate to the route to be flown.

1.2 Minimum Levels

1.2.1 Except when necessary for take-off or landing, or except when specifically authorized by the appropriate authority, an IFR flight shall be flown at a level which is at least 1000 ft (300 m) above the highest obstacle located within 5 nm (9.25 km) of the estimated position of the aircraft; except that the United Kingdom regulations do not apply to an aircraft operating under IFR and flying at an altitude not exceeding 3000 ft (900 m) if that aircraft is clear of cloud with the surface in sight and in a flight visibility of at least 800 m.

Note 1: The estimated position of the aircraft will take account of the navigational accuracy which can be achieved on the relevant route segment, having regard to the navigational facilities available on the ground and in the aircraft.

Note 2: See also SERA.3105 Minimum Heights and SERA.5015 Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) — Rules Applicable to All IFR Flights.

1.3 Change from IFR flight to VFR flight

1.3.1 An aircraft electing to change the conduct of its flight from compliance with the instrument flight rules to compliance with the visual flight rules shall, if a flight plan was submitted, notify the appropriate air traffic services unit specifically that the IFR flight is cancelled and communicate thereto the changes to be made to its current flight plan.

1.3.2 When an aircraft operating under the instrument flight rules is flown in or encounters visual meteorological conditions it shall not cancel its IFR flight unless it is anticipated, and intended, that the flight will be continued for a reasonable period of time in uninterrupted visual meteorological conditions.

Note: See also ENR 1.10, paragraph 1.14.1.

2 Rules applicable to IFR flights within Controlled Airspace

2.1 IFR flights shall comply with the provisions of SERA.8015 Air Traffic Control Clearances when operated in controlled airspace.

2.2 As specified in the ICAO EUR Regional Supplementary Procedures (DOC 7030/5-EUR), flights shall be conducted in accordance with Instrument Flight Rules when operated within or above the EUR RVSM airspace. Therefore, flights operating as General Air Traffic (GAT) within the London and Scottish UIRs at or above FL 290, as described in ENR 2.1, shall be conducted in accordance with the Instrument Flight Rules.

2.3 An IFR flight operating in cruising flight in controlled airspace shall be flown at a cruising level, or, if authorized to employ cruise climb techniques, between two levels or above a level, selected from the Tables of cruising levels at ENR 1.7 paragraph 6.1, except that the correlation of levels to track prescribed therein shall not apply whenever otherwise indicated in air traffic control clearances or specified by the appropriate ATS authority in Aeronautical Information Publications.

2.4 For TRA Access Requirements see ENR 1.1.5, paragraph 1.5.6.

3 Rules applicable to IFR flights outside Controlled Airspace**3.1 Cruising Levels**

3.1.1 An IFR flight operating in level cruising flight outside of controlled airspace shall be flown at a cruising level appropriate to its track as specified in the Tables of cruising levels at ENR 1.7 paragraph 6.1.

Note: This provision does not preclude the use of cruise climb techniques by aircraft in supersonic flight.

3.2 Communications

3.2.1 An IFR flight operating outside controlled airspace but within or into areas, or along routes, designated by the appropriate ATS authority in accordance with SERA.4001(b) Submission of a Flight Plan and incorporating UK Differences (GEN 1.7 refers), shall maintain a listening watch on the appropriate radio frequency and establish two-way communication, as necessary, with the air traffic services unit providing flight information service.

Note 1: See notes following ICAO Annex 2, paragraph 3.6.5.1.

Note 2:

(a) In a HF environment, SELCAL or similar automatic signalling devices satisfy the requirement to maintain an air-ground voice communication watch;

(b) An aircraft may be permitted to communicate temporarily with a control unit other than the unit controlling the aircraft.

3.3 Position Reports

3.3.1 An IFR flight operating outside controlled airspace and required by the appropriate ATS authority to:

- submit a flight plan,

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- maintain a listening watch on the appropriate radio frequency and establish two-way communication, as necessary, with the air traffic services unit providing flight information service, shall report position as specified in SERA.8025 Position Reports for controlled flights.

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