

# **KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT**



## **SULAYMANIYAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**MATS**

**CHAPTER 7**

**VISUAL FLIGHT RULES  
( First Edition )**

**April 2012**

**Prepared By  
Fakhir .F. Mohammed  
Civil Aviation Consultant**

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
\*\*\*\*\*

<b>Subjects</b> -----	<b>Page</b> -----
<b>7.1 General</b> .....	<b>7 - 1</b>
<b>7.2 Visual Flight Rules</b> .....	<b>7 - 1</b>
<b>7.3 Controlled VFR operations</b> .....	<b>7 - 5</b>
<b>7.4 Special VFR ( SVFR ) Operations</b> .....	<b>7 - 5</b>
<b>7.4.1 General</b> .....	<b>7 - 5</b>
<b>7.4.2 Procedures</b> .....	<b>7 - 6</b>
<b>7.4.3 Authorization of Special VFR</b> .....	<b>7 - 7</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*

---

## CHAPTER 7

# VISUAL FLIGHT RULES

\*\*\*\*\*

### 7.1 General

**7.1.1 Flight shall be conducted in accordance with the General Flight Rules, as specified in ICAO Annex 2 chapter 3 and when in flight with either Visual Flight Rules (VFR) or Instrument Flight Rules (IFR).**

*Note: The pilot in command may elect to comply with either VFR or IFR, except that IFR are mandatory (except SVFR in CTR) in the following cases: ( Local Procedures ). For ICAO procedures see Annex 2 Items 4.3 & 4.4*

*(a) In IMC.*

*(b) At night.*

*(c) At or above FL 150.*

*(d) At transonic and supersonic speeds.*

*(e) When specified by ATC*

### 7.2. Visual Flight Rules

**7.2.1 Except when operating as a SVFR flight, VFR flight shall be conducted so that the aircraft is flown in conditions of visibility and distance from cloud equal to or greater than those specified in Table 7.1 below:-**

TABLE 7.1

Altitude Band	Airspace Class	Flight Visibility	Distance from Cloud
At and above 10 000 ft (AMSL)	A* B C D E F G	8 km	1500 m horizontally 300 m (1 000 ft) vertically
Below 10 000 ft AMSL and above 3 000 ft AMSL, or above 1 000 ft above terrain, whichever is the higher	A* B C D E F G	5 km	1500 m horizontally 300 m (1 000 ft) vertically
At and below 3 000 ft AMSL, or 1 000 ft above terrain, whichever is the higher	A* B C D E	5 km	1500 m horizontally 300 m (1 000 ft) vertically
	F G	5 km	Clear of cloud and with the surface in sight

\* the VMC minima in Class A airspace are included for guidance to pilots and do not imply acceptance of VFR flights in class "A" Airspace.

**7.2.2** Except when clearance is obtained from an air traffic control unit, VFR flights shall not take-off or land at an aerodrome within a control zone, or enter the aerodrome traffic zone or traffic pattern when:-

a. the ceiling is less than 4000 ft / 1250 m above aerodrome elevation. (Local Procedures) . For ICAO Procedures see Annex 2 Item 4.2 a.

**OR**

b. the ground visibility is less than 5 km.

**7.2.3 Except when necessary for take-off or landing, or except when approved by the appropriate Authority, a VFR flight shall not be flown:-**

- a. over the congested areas of cities, towns or settlements or over an open-air assembly of persons, at a height less than 1000 ft above the highest obstacle within a radius of 600 m from the aircraft;**
- b. elsewhere, other than as specified in 7.2.3 (a) above, at a height less than 500 ft above ground or water.**

**7.2.4 Except where otherwise indicated in air traffic control clearances, VFR flights in level cruising flight when operated above 11000 ft above Mean Sea Level (AMSL), shall be conducted at a flight level appropriate to the track as specified in the Table of Cruising levels ( Table 7 – 2). ( Local Procedures ) . For ICAO procedures see Annex 2 Item 4.7.**

**7.2.5 All VFR flights shall comply with the provisions of air traffic control clearances (Controlled VFR) when:-**

- a. Operated within Class B, C and D airspace.**
- b. Forming part of aerodrome traffic at controlled aerodromes.**
- c. Operated as Special VFR flights.**

TABLE 7 - 2

<b>MAGNETIC TRACK</b>			
<b>FROM 000° TO 179°</b>		<b>FROM 180° TO 359°</b>	
<b>IFR FLIGHTS Altitude/FL</b>	<b>VFR FLIGHTS Altitude/FL</b>	<b>IFR FLIGHTS Altitude/FL</b>	<b>VFR FLIGHT Altitudes/FL</b>
<b>3000 ft</b>	<b>3500 ft</b>	<b>4000FT</b>	<b>4500FT</b>
<b>5000 ft</b>	<b>5500 ft</b>	<b>6000FT</b>	<b>6500FT</b>
<b>7000 ft</b>	<b>7500 ft</b>	<b>8000FT</b>	<b>8500FT</b>
<b>9000 ft</b>	<b>9500 ft</b>	<b>10000FT</b>	<b>10500FT</b>
<b>11000 ft</b>	<b>11500 ft</b>	<b>12000FT</b>	<b>12500FT</b>
<b>13000 ft</b>	<b>13500 ft</b>	<b>14000FT</b>	<b>*****</b>
<b>Transition Layer for Sulaymaniyah Airport is Between 14000 ft and FL160</b>			
<b>FL170</b>		<b>FL160</b>	
<b>FL190</b>		<b>FL180</b>	
<b>FL210</b>		<b>FL200</b>	
<b>FL230</b>		<b>FL220</b>	
<b>FL250</b>		<b>FL240</b>	
<b>FL270</b>		<b>FL260</b>	
<b>FL290</b>		<b>FL280</b>	
<b>FL310</b>		<b>FL300</b>	
<b>FL330</b>		<b>FL320</b>	
<b>FL350</b>		<b>FL340</b>	
<b>FL370</b>		<b>FL360</b>	
<b>FL390</b>		<b>FL380</b>	
<b>FL410</b>		<b>FL400</b>	
<b>2000 ft vertical separation is required for cruising levels above FL410.</b>			
<b>FL450</b>		<b>FL430</b>	
<b>FL490</b>		<b>FL470</b>	
<b>ETC</b>		<b>ETC</b>	

*Note 1. The appropriate pressure settings for use with the data contained in this table are International Standard Atmosphere "ISA" (1013.25 hPa / 29.92 Inch) for Flight level and QNH for Altitudes.*

*Note 2. The correlation of levels to track as prescribed above shall not apply whenever otherwise indicated in air traffic control clearances.*

**7.2.6** A VFR flight operating within or into areas, or along routes, designated by appropriate ATS Authority shall maintain continuous air – ground voice communication watch on the appropriate radio frequency and report its position, as necessary, to the ATS unit providing flight information service.

**7.2.7** Aircraft requesting Search And Rescue ( SAR ) Services are required to maintain a continuous listening watch on the frequency of the ATS unit providing Flight Information Service ( FIS ) and report its position as required.

**7.2.8** An aircraft operated in accordance with VFR which wishes to change to to compliance with IFR shall:-

a. if a flight plan was submitted, communicate the necessary changes to be effected to its current flight plan,

OR

b. submit a flight plan to the appropriate ATS unit and obtain a clearance prior to proceeding IFR when in controlled airspace.

### **7.3. Controlled VFR Operations (CVFR)**

**7.3.1** A CVFR flight is a flight operated under visual flight rules, and provided with an Air Traffic Control Service ( ATCS ) when:-

a. it is , entering or leaving an aerodrome traffic circuit or operating on the manoeuvring area of a controlled aerodrome;

OR

b. it is authorized to operate within controlled airspace in which the responsibility for the provision of separation from IFR flight lies with an ATS unit.

### **7.4 Special VFR (SVFR) Operations**

#### **7.4.1 General**

**7.4.1.1** A SVFR flight is a VFR flight cleared by Air traffic Control to operate within a control zone in meteorological conditions bellow VMC.

**7.4.1.2 SVFR flight is intended to provide flexibility for pilots who do not wish to or are unable to comply with IFR. It absolves the pilot from complying with the IFR specified in ICAO Annex 2, chapter 5 .**

**7.4.1.3 SVFR flight does not absolve the pilot in command from the responsibility of maintaining the minimum safe levels as prescribed in 7.2.3. The pilot must comply with ATC instructions and it will be entirely his responsibility to ensure that the flight conditions will enable him to determine his flight path and remain in sight of the ground or water and clear of all obstructions.**

## **7.4.2 Procedures**

**7.4.2.1 When reported weather conditions fall below the minimum specified for VFR flight within controlled airspace, ATC shall suspend VFR operations at the Control Zone.**

**7.4.2.2 An ATC clearance shall be obtained by an aircraft prior to operating within a CTR when VFR flight is suspended. Issuance of SVFR clearance by ATC shall be subject to traffic conditions, the extent of the proposed flight and the availability of air/ground communications.**

**7.4.2.3 Responsibility rests with the pilot –in - command for determination of flight conditions and ability to operate VFR in controlled airspace where such operation is permitted. If it becomes evident that compliance with VFR will not be possible, the appropriate ATC unit should be advised and IFR, or SVFR (CTR only) clearance should be requested. If unable to obtain either an IFR or SVFR clearance, operation in VMC should be maintained and the appropriate ATC unit notified of action being taken to either leave controlled airspace or land at the nearest suitable aerodrome.**



---

### 7.4.3 Authorization of Special VFR

**7.4.3.1** The unit providing approach control may authorize a pilot's request for SVFR flights within a CTR after consideration of the following:-

- a. prevailing traffic conditions (IFR flights have priority),
- b. the extent of the proposed flight, and
- c. that air/ground communication is maintained.

### 7.4.3.2 Special VFR Clearances

**7.4.3.2.1** Separation shall be effected between all SVFR flights and between such flights and all other IFR flights in accordance with the functions and provisions prescribed in Chapter 11 of this manual and in accordance with the separation minima detailed in Chapter 5 of PANS/RAC Doc 4444.

**7.4.3.2.2** Aircraft will not normally be given a specific level to fly. However, if it is necessary to provide vertical separation from aircraft above, the SVFR aircraft is to be instructed to fly "Not Above" a specified level.  
e.g.

... (callsign) CLEARED ... (route) SVFR CLEAR OF CLOUD AND IN SIGHT OF GROUND OR WATER, NOT ABOVE ... ft

**7.4.3.2.3** When issuing a SVFR clearance, controllers shall bear in mind the pilot's responsibility for:-

- a. weather avoidance,
- b. terrain clearance,
- c. complying with the requirements of 7.2, and should make clearance as flexible as possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*