

FAA Data: 6 Airports Change IDs, 21 Change Magnetic Variation, 195 New Airport Managers

The latest update of the FAA airport database contained a number of changes that will impact pilots using the affected airports. Aviation data is subject to almost continuous change and the FAA database is updated every eight weeks to keep pilots current.

September 29, 2009 (FPRC) -- On August 27th, 2009, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released the latest version of the official US airport database. Contained in the release were a number of changes that will impact pilots using the affected airports. Aviation data is frequently updated to keep pilots and the rest of the aviation community apprised of new information. The update cycle for the airport database is every eight weeks.

Changes in airport identifiers affect the entire community and can affect the general public. The FAA airport identifier is a three or four character name using numerals and letters. The identifier is used by pilots and controllers to refer to a specific airport quickly and accurately. Six airports received new airport identifiers during this cycle.

Elkins Field, Clarkton, NC is now 2NR2, was 1E6

Ranchaero, Chico, CA is now CL56, was O23

Healdsburg Muni, Healdsburg, CA is now HES, was O31

Jack Barstow, Midland, MI is now IKW, was 3BS

Desert Rock, Mercury, NV is now NV65, was DRA

Mesa Vista Ranch, Pampa, TX is now TX13, was BPC

Another important change that directly affects pilots is magnet variation. When navigating with a compass, pilots must compensate for the local variation from true north. At most places on the surface of the globe, a compass will point slightly away from true north. This difference, measured in degrees, is called the magnetic variation. Pilots use the value to adjust a compass to show a heading corrected to true north. In this cycle, 21 airports reported changes in magnet variation.

The airports reporting the changes are 0ID4, 0M4, 2C7, 3MY, 3N6, 5R4, 9V5, BNA, EKA, IMM, M55, MRY, NBG, ONM, PCW, PVB, PVU, RNM, SHD, TNI and TZV.

Pilots and controllers communicate using specific radio frequencies. The frequencies used by each location are published so pilots can quickly get information vital to safe flying. Ten airports changed their published frequencies for primary communications (Universal Communications or UNICOM and Common Traffic Advisory Frequency or CTAF). Those airports are 18I, 20A, 4MD, 61TE, AEG, O70, OTH, PCM, TPF and P99.

Most airports have managers. The manager could be a public servant in local government, or an employee of a corporation. As in most businesses, people change positions. In the latest cycle 195 airports changed managers.

About Avionics Specialists, LLC

Avionics Specialists, LLC has been serving pilots at the Fort Collins-Loveland Airport since 2004. AvSpec sells and installs avionics with the aim of matching equipment to a pilot's flying needs.

AvSpec is an authorized dealer for all leading avionics product lines. In addition, AvSpec has created and maintains the web site AirportView.net, serving pilots with current weather images at airports, plus directories of airports and Automated Weather Observation Stations (AWOS). AvSpec also installs weather camera systems and maintains AWOS across the Rocky Mountains.

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