UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Civil Air Regulations Amendment 60-1
Effective: April 1, 1948
Adopted: January 27, 1948

# CLEARANCE FROM AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR VFR FLIGHTS WITHIN CONTROL ZONES WHEN THE CEILING IS LESS THAN 1,000 FEET

Section 60.200 of the Civil Air Regulations presently provides that under Visual Flight Rules aircraft flown within control zones must keep 500 feet vertically and 2,000 feet horizontally from any cloud formation unless otherwise authorized by air traffic control. Section 60.107 (c) provides that an altitude of 500 feet must be maintained except over open water, sparsely populated areas, or when necessary for taking off and landing. Section 60.201 permits VFR flight within a control zone without air traffic control clearance when visibility is at least three miles.

Under these regulations it is possible for aircraft to enter a control zone and the traffic pattern of controlled airports without prior authorization from air traffic control when approaching, for example, over water or sparsely populated areas under a ceiling of 600 or 700 feet while at the same time other aircraft, operating under Instrument Flight Rules, are letting down on instruments. Such practices often result in requiring aircraft operating under IFR rules to hold for unduly long periods in the "stack" and also have often created a collision hazard.

The purpose of this regulation is to amend § 60.200 to provide that when the ceiling is less than 1,000 feet all aircraft being flown in control zones under Visual Flight Rules shall be required to obtain a clearance from air traffic control. It does not apply to airports or landing areas outside control zones.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matter presented.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Civil Aeronautics Board hereby amends Part 60 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR, Part 60) effective April 1, 1948:

1. By amending § 60.200 to read as follows:

*60.200 Ceiling and distance from clouds.* Aircraft shall comply with the following requirements as to ceiling and distance from clouds:

(a) *Within control zones.* Unless authorized by air traffic control, aircraft shall not be flown when the ceiling is less than 1,000 feet, or less than 500 feet vertically and 2,000 feet horizontally from any cloud formation.

(b) *Elsewhere.* When at an altitude of more than 700 feet above the surface aircraft shall not be flown less than 500 feet vertically and 2,000 feet horizontally from any cloud formation; when at an altitude of 700 feet or less aircraft shall not be flown unless clear of clouds.

2. By deleting the "Chart of VFR visibility and distance-from-clouds minimums."

3. By deleting the "Chart of cruising altitudes outside of control areas and control zones."

[Secs. 205 (a), 601, 52 Stat. 984, 1007; 49 U.S.C. 425 (a), 551]

By the Civil Aeronautics Board:

*/s/ M. C. Mulligan*

M. C. Mulligan
Secretary

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