



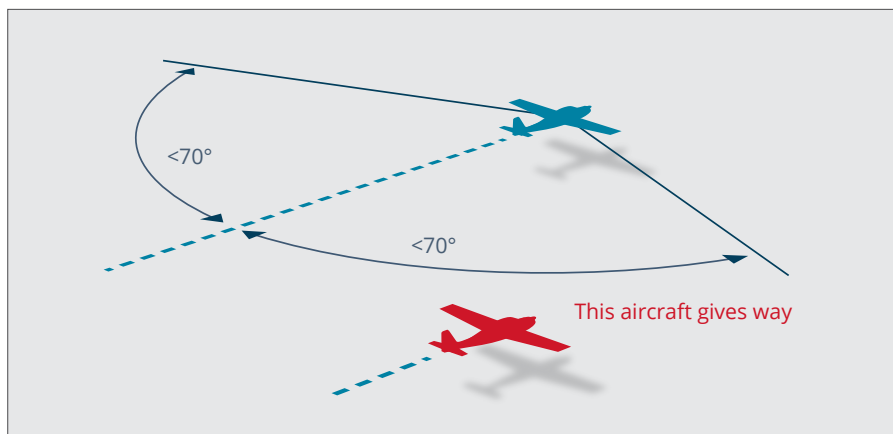
Rules of the air: overtaking, right of way and avoiding collisions

The rules of the air are the foundation for safe flying.

It is good practice to refresh and test your knowledge of the rules of the air occasionally to ensure you continue operating safely, particularly in relation to common occurrences such as overtaking and determining right of way.

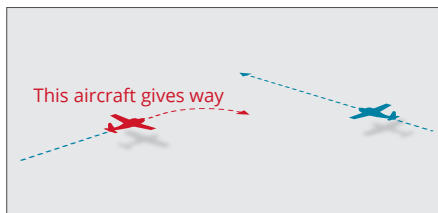
RIGHT OF WAY

- » Generally, when two aircraft are on converging headings at approximately the same height, the aircraft that has the other on its right must give way. However, the following exceptions apply.
 - > Power-driven, heavier-than-air aircraft must give way to airships, gliders and balloons.
 - > Airships must give way to gliders and balloons.
 - > Gliders must give way to balloons.
 - > Power-driven aircraft must give way to aircraft that are towing other aircraft or objects.
- » An aircraft that has right of way must maintain its heading and speed, but the rules allow the pilot in command to take alternative action if it is required to avert a collision.
- » An aircraft that is required to keep out of the way of another aircraft must avoid passing over or under the other, or crossing ahead of it, unless passing well clear.
- » All aircraft, whether in flight, on the ground or on water, must give way to aircraft on landing or on final approach to land.
- » When two or more heavier-than-air aircraft are approaching an aerodrome to land, the aircraft at the greater height must give way to the lower-flying aircraft. The lower-flying aircraft should not take advantage of this rule to cut in front of an aircraft that is on final approach to land, or overtake that aircraft.



AVOIDING COLLISION

- » When two aircraft are approaching head-on and there is a danger of collision, each aircraft should alter its heading to the right.



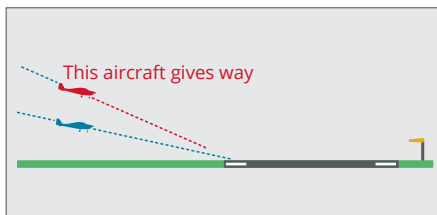
- » An aircraft that is about to take off must only do so when there is no apparent risk of collision with other aircraft.
- » Pilots who are aware that an aircraft is compelled to land (for example, in case of an emergency) must give way to that aircraft.

OVERTAKING

- » An overtaking aircraft is defined as one that approaches another from the rear on a line forming an angle of less than 70° with the plane of symmetry of the other. That means an aircraft is considered to be overtaking if it is positioned in a way that would make it unable to see the forward navigation lights of the other aircraft at night.



- » An aircraft that is being overtaken has right of way. Regardless of whether it is climbing, descending, or in horizontal flight, the aircraft that is overtaking must alter its heading to the right and keep out of the way of the other aircraft. Even if the relative positions of both aircraft change, the aircraft being overtaken retains right of way until the overtaking aircraft is entirely past and clear.



- » An aircraft cannot dive or climb to overtake another.

KNOW THE RULES

- » Check out the Visual Flight Rules Guide at casa.gov.au/vfrg



'Explaining the rules – right of way'
Watch the video on YouTube

