



# Weather checklists



Weather-related general aviation accidents remain one of the most significant causes for concern in aviation safety. The often-fatal outcomes of these accidents are usually even more tragic because they are avoidable.

For pilots who fly VFR, conducting thorough pre-flight planning and working to a personal minimums checklist aids good decision-making both prior to take-off and during flight when faced with marginal weather.

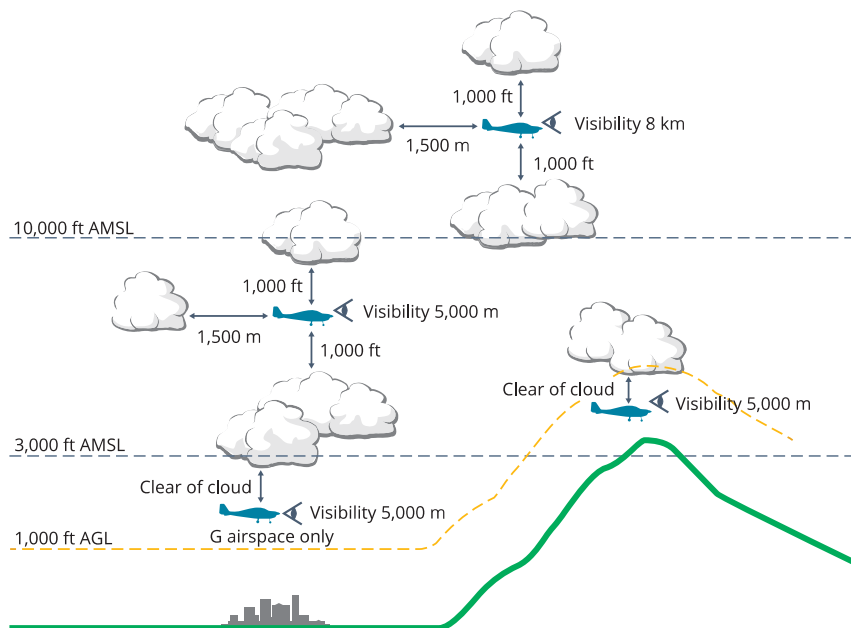
Pre-flight planning minimises in-flight decision errors because it removes the unforeseen element from situations that arise during the flight. Failure to carry out this prior planning can result in decisions being made

under a situation of considerable stress and increases the likelihood of poor or incorrect decision-making.

## PRE-FLIGHT PLANNING RESOURCES

- » For more information about pre-flight planning, check out the Visual Flight Rules Guide, available at [casa.gov.au/vfrg](http://casa.gov.au/vfrg) or the Flight Planning Kit at [shop.casa.gov.au](http://shop.casa.gov.au)
- » For information about interpreting forecasts, see [bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre](http://bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre)
- » For meteorological services information, read Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) GEN 3.5 – [www.airservicesaustralia.com/aip](http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aip)

**Figure: VMC criteria all aircraft Class A, C, E and G**



**Use the checklists below to make sure you've thought about the relevant weather and fuel considerations before you fly.**

Do you have current weather forecasts  
e.g. GAF, GPWT, TAF, TAF3 for your planned route?

**NO**

[www.airservicesaustralia.com](http://www.airservicesaustralia.com)  
1800 805 150

**YES**

Does the weather meet VMC criteria:  
5km vis, 1,000 ft vertical, 1,500 m horizontal  
distance from cloud?

**NO**

Plan to stay home or go  
another day

**YES**

From the forecast is there:

- » more than SCT cloud below 1,500 ft AGL?
- » vis less than 8 km?
- » crosswind greater than the maximum for  
the aircraft?
- » is the forecast endorsed with a percentage  
probability of fog, mist, dust or any other  
phenomena restricting visibility below 8 km?

**YES**

Plan for an alternate or holding fuel

Holding fuel  
INTER 30 minutes  
TEMPO 60 minutes  
(holding requirement starts  
30 minutes before to 30 minutes  
after the inter or tempo period)

**NO**

Will the weather allow for a safe altitude for  
the route?

**NO**

Find an alternate route to avoid  
bad weather

**YES**

Do you have sufficient fuel for the flight plus  
reserves?

**NO**

Re-plan route or refuel en route

**YES**

Is the aircraft within weight and balance limits?

**NO**

- » Re-plan route, or
- » reduce weight, or
- » rebalance aircraft, or
- » plan for en route refuelling

**YES**

Enjoy your flight