CANADA'S AIRSPACE

Canada has seven classes of airspace. Each one has its own rules about the types of aircraft that can use it and the communications equipment pilots need to use. NAV CANADA is there across them all, providing air traffic control and flight information services so pilots can get to their destinations safely and efficiently.

Keeping pilots informed

Our flight service specialists provide advisory services to pilots about weather and other aircraft in the area through our flight service stations (at airports) and in uncontrolled airspace through our flight information centres (en route)

What about drones?

Remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) – also known as drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – have to follow flight rules, too. To fly a drone in controlled airspace under NAV CANADA jurisdiction (Class A to E):

- **The RPA must be registered with Transport Canada**
- **The operator must hold an advanced operations pilot certificate**
- **The operator must receive written authorization from NAV CANADA**

Visit navcanada.ca/RPAS for more details.

CLASS A

ATC gives pilots clearances to fly and gives instructions on how to keep safe distance from other aircraft.

IFR: ✓ **VFR:** ✗

CLASS B

ATC gives pilots clearances to fly and gives instructions on how to keep safe distance from other aircraft.

IFR: ✓ **VFR:** ✓

CLASS C

All aircraft in this airspace require ATC clearance to fly. ATC makes sure IFR aircraft keep safe distance from other aircraft. VFR pilots are responsible for keeping safe distance from other aircraft.

IFR: ✓ **VFR:** ✓

CLASS D

IFR aircraft require ATC clearance. VFR aircraft have to establish radio contact with ATC. ATC makes sure IFR aircraft keep safe distance between each other. VFR pilots are responsible for keeping safe distance from other aircraft.

IFR: ✓ **VFR:** ✓

CLASS E

IFR traffic needs ATC clearance but VFR traffic does not. VFR pilots can request information from ATC.

IFR: ✓ **VFR:** ✓

CLASS F

Restricted airspace: no aircraft may enter without permission from the user agency or controlling agency.
Advisory airspace: special-use airspace for activities such as parachuting and aircraft testing. Non-participating aircraft should avoid this area.

CLASS G

Although air traffic services units may provide flight information and alerting services, pilots are responsible for keeping safe distance from all other aircraft.

IFR: ✓ **VFR:** ✓

IFR = **Instrument flight rules** – pilots fly using only the instrumentation in the flight deck of an aircraft

VFR = **Visual flight rules** – pilots fly by sight based on what they can see outside the cockpit

ATC = **Air traffic control** – services to monitor and manage flights safely

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