



**FAA
Great Lakes Region, Airports Division
Safety Standards Branch**

Airport Certification Information Bulletin (ACIB) 17-02

Subject: Winter Airport Condition Reporting



On October 1, 2016, federally obligated airports, airline flight crews, dispatchers, general aviation pilots, and air traffic controllers began using new Takeoff and Landing Performance Assessment (TALPA). These standards were developed to reduce the risk of runway overrun accidents and incidents caused by runway contamination related to weather and other factors. This change standardizes how airports evaluate and report runway conditions with the use of a Runway Condition Assessment Matrix (RCAM). These changes replace subjective judgments of runway

conditions with objective assessments tied directly to contaminant type and depth categories.

All airport operators should now be knowledgeable on TALPA reporting procedures and should comply with the new requirements, which require airports to generate runway condition codes (RwyCC) and properly report them. If there are any questions or concerns regarding this new format, please contact your assigned Airport Certification Safety Inspector.

Airfield Condition Reporting

To comply with § 139.339, airport operators must utilize the NOTAM system as **the** primary method for timely collection and dissemination of airport information to air carriers and other airport users. The first and preferred method is NOTAM Manager, a direct-entry system that automatically generates a RwyCC from data entered by the airport operator. Users should exercise caution to provide accurate input to NOTAM Manager, especially when using the “Replace” function on existing NOTAMs. The existing conditions must be deleted, and replaced with new conditions by clicking the “Add Contaminant” button. Ensure updated NOTAM conditions have been accurately reported.

Dissemination of Airfield Conditions

To ensure accurate and timely condition reporting, **the NOTAM System should be used as the primary means to calculate Rwy Condition Codes (RwyCC) and disseminate airfield conditions. We strongly caution airports to avoid the use of redundant systems and secondary reporting.** Secondary means of reporting increase the opportunity for erroneous condition dissemination; in addition to potentially prolonging timely airfield condition updates to the users. A simple method is referring users to Pilot Web (<https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/PilotWeb/>) or forwarding the NOTAM confirmation emails from NOTAM Manager to your users will reduce the possibility of errors. Note: Mu numbers used in calculating RwyCCs are **NOT to be disseminated to airport users** as part of this reporting process. Mu assessments are for airport use only to assist in trending and overall snow removal management.

Quality Assurance

All condition reporting must be carefully proofread in NOTAM Manager **AND** in the NOTAM confirmation email. These redundancies provide a simple mechanism for airports to immediately identify and correct erroneous data entry in NOTAM Manager. Additionally, airport operators must

use caution when transposing NOTAM information from airport condition assessment reports into the NOTAM system.

The resources listed below will assist airport operators in understanding the new TALPA/RCAM standards and calculations of the RwyCC during winter conditions. These web links and others may also be found at <http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/talpa>.

Communications

Airports performing snow removal without ATCT services must be aware of their environment by continually scanning for aircraft and monitoring the assigned common traffic advisory frequency (CTAF). Snow crews should establish good radio monitoring habits, check radio functionality prior to operating equipment, and remain aware of inbound and outbound traffic during snow removal operations. Airport operators should review FAA CertAlert 16-01 dated 4/1/2016 that addresses operational safety issues on this topic. The CertAlert can be found on the FAA website within the Airport CertAlert page or by clicking [here](#).

Resource Web Links	Purpose	Publication Date
Frequently Asked Questions about the Takeoff and Landing Performance Assessment (TALPA) Initiative for Airport Operators (PDF)	Provides answers to questions about TALPA, RCAM, and the process for reporting runway conditions.	06/28/2016
Airport Condition Reporting and the Runway Condition Assessment Matrix (RCAM) Video	Discusses and demonstrates revisions to the process of assessing and reporting runway surface conditions.	09/08/2016
Revised Runway Condition Assessment Tool for Airport Operators (PDF)	Allows airport operators to assess a runway surface when contaminants are present in order to generate and report a Runway Condition Code (RwyCC).	07/29/2016
AC 150/5200-30D, Airport Field Condition Assessments and Winter Operations Safety (PDF)	Provides guidance on assessing and reporting airport conditions using the Runway Condition Assessment Matrix (RCAM), and establishing snow removal and control procedures.	07/29/2016
Airport Safety Information Video Series - Winter Operations Update (Video)	Reviews pre-season planning and best practices for winter operations, and takes a look at new approaches, reporting methods, and terminology.	10/28/2014
Reportable Contaminants in Field Condition (FICON) Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) (PDF)	Identifies reportable contaminants as well as the reportable depths.	06/07/2016
InFO Information for Operators TALPA	Information for operators related to Braking Acton Reports Advisories	12/5/2016