

FLIGHT PLANNING FOR PILOTS

When flying with ATC, it is important you pass the correct data to ATC. When flight planning, it is important you use the IFR route analyzer. You may file any route you wish ATC will amend it if they see anything wrong with it. Be sure to let ATC know if you are unable of any sort of routing.

UAL221	
B738/L	“United”
KLAX-KSFO	FL340
VTU6 RZS SERFR	SERFR2
New Pilot	

Above is what a flight plan should somewhat look like. We do not expect a full table like as shown above, just the same information.

If you are unable to make a table, please make it look something like this.

Callsign: UAL221 **Pronunciation:** United

Arr/Dep: KLAX-KSFO **Route:** VTU6 RZS SERFR SERFR2

Remarks: New Pilot

Below we will discuss each section of the flight plan.

Callsign: In the flight plan above, **UAL221** is the callsign. Radio callsigns are abbreviated using the ICAO airline codes. UAL is the ICAO code for United Airlines and 221 is the flight number. When logging onto IFVATC, please be sure to log on with your nickname being the correct callsign you will be going by. Please try your best to use proper ICAO airline codes for your callsign. For a list of proper airline ICAO codes, look here:

http://czvr.vatcan.ca/files/docs/other/ICAO_Airlines.txt

Pronunciation: This is not required to be in your flight plan. Our controllers are familiar with most airline ICAO codes from America and Canada. However, if you are flying under a callsign from a country quite far from the USA, it may be best to spell out your callsign to avoid any confusion on the channel. Above, UAL221 spelled out his callsign making it clear his callsign was “United 221”.

Arr/Dep: This is where you will put your Arrival and Departure airports. We do require that you use the proper airport ICAO codes. If you are unfamiliar with an airport ICAO code, a simple Google search will do the trick!

Route: ZLA and ZOA are both complex airspaces. Our ARTCC's share Letters Of Agreement (LOAs) requiring aircraft to be routed a certain way between the two airspaces. If you wish to take a look at the LOA, it is located in the Document Center. If you do not file a valid route, ATC will be sure to let you know and together you will work out a new route that is valid. The wonderful IFR Route analyzer is available from flightaware. The link to this tool is on our home page.

Remarks: This is a space to fill with anything you feel may need to be shown or at warning for the controller. You may choose to leave it blank. Some common elements are: *"Text Only"* | *"New Pilot"* | *"Also a controller"* etc..

VFR Flight Plans are not required nor recommended. Once you make your VFR request, ATC will create a special flight plan for internal tracking. You may want to file a VFR flight plan. Just be sure to put "VFR" in your remarks!