



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

Airport Certification Information Bulletin (ACIB) 12-04

SUBJECT: Operational Safety on Airports During Construction

BACKGROUND:

On September 29, 2011, the FAA published Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5370-2F. This revised AC has set forth new requirements that an airport operator must follow to maintain operational safety during construction. This ACIB provides a brief overview of these changes. As a reminder, the airport operator has the overall responsibility of all activities on an airport. Airport operators must read and understand the guidance described in the aforementioned AC.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES:

Runway Safety Areas (RSA): No construction may occur within the existing RSA while the runway is open for aircraft operations. The RSA dimensions may be temporarily adjusted if the runway is restricted to aircraft operations requiring an RSA that is equal to the RSA width and length beyond the runway ends available during construction. The temporary use of declared distances and/or partial runway closures may provide the necessary RSA under certain circumstances. Open trenches or excavations are not permitted within the RSA while the runway is open.

Runway Object Free Areas (ROFA): Construction, including excavations, may be permitted in the ROFA. However, equipment must be removed from the ROFA when not in use, and material should not be stockpiled in the ROFA if not necessary. Stockpiling material in the OFA requires submittal of a 7460-1 form and justification provided to the appropriate FAA Airports District Office for approval.

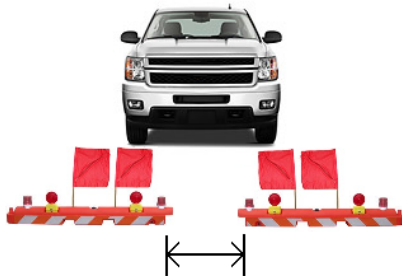
Runway Approach/Departure Areas: All personnel, materials, and/or equipment must remain clear of the applicable threshold siting surfaces, as defined in Appendix 2, "Threshold Siting Requirements," of AC 150/5300-13. Objects that do not penetrate these surfaces may still be obstructions to air navigation and may affect standard instrument approach procedures.

Obstacle Free Zone (OFZ): In general, personnel, material, and/or equipment may not penetrate the OFZ while the runway is open for aircraft operations. If a penetration to the OFZ is necessary, it may be possible to continue aircraft operations through operational restrictions.

Taxiway Safety Areas (TSA): No construction may occur within the TSA while the taxiway is open for aircraft operations. The TSA dimensions may be temporarily adjusted if the taxiway is restricted to aircraft operations requiring a TSA that is equal to the TSA width available during construction. Open trenches or excavations are not permitted within the TSA while the taxiway is open.

Taxiway Object Free Areas (TOFA): Restrictions are more stringent compared to the ROFA as aircraft wings regularly penetrate the TOFA. No construction may occur within the TOFA while the taxiway is open for aircraft operations, except as noted in AC 150/5370-2F.

Barricades: Barricades are not permitted in any active safety area. Use of barricades is an acceptable method used to identify and define the limits of construction and hazardous areas on airports. The spacing of barricades must prevent a breach, barring a deliberate act. For example, if barricades are intended to exclude vehicles, gaps between barricades must be smaller than the width of the excluded vehicles, generally 4 ft.



Space barricades such that a vehicle is unable to drive through gaps.

DID YOU KNOW



- An airport operator has overall responsibility for all activities on an airport, including construction.
- A Safety Plan Compliance Document (SPCD) must be supplied by the contractor indicating how they will comply with the CSPP.
- By the time approximately 25% to 30% of the project design is completed, the principal elements of the CSPP should be established.
- Appendix 3 contains a Safety and Phasing Plan Checklist which is an aid on providing a complete submittal.
- Airport operator must ensure adequate construction oversight is maintained during all phases of construction including the necessary escorts to ensure safety.