



Monsoon Circular-2024

**Aviation Safety and Security Regulation Directorate
Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal**

Subject: Operations on Monsoon weather	Date: 09 June 2024	ASSRD CIR 087/ 2024
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1. **PURPOSE** The circular, provides recommendations for all ATS Providers, Aerodrome Operators and airline operators to take precautionary measures during operations on monsoon weather in the interest of safety of aviation operations.

2. **CANCELLATION.** These circular cancels all the previous versions of Monsoon Circulars issued with the recommendations for the ATS Providers, Flights operators and Aerodrome Operators (Civil Aviation Offices).

3. **APPLICATION.** The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) recommends the measures to be adopted by the ATS Providers, Aerodrome Operators and Flight operators in this circular.

Recommendations of this circular are mostly advisory in nature and should be complied as far as practicable. In the event of a conflict, CAR-2, CAR-3, Flight Operations Requirements (FOR), CAR-11, CAR-14 (Vol-1) and other relevant CAAN Manuals take precedence over this circular.

4. DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES.

This circular shall be read in conjunction with the following documents

- 4.1 Civil Aviation Requirements for Rules of the Air (CAR-2)
- 4.2 Civil Aviation Requirements for Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation (CAR-3)
- 4.3 Flight Operations Requirements Aeroplane and Helicopter
- 4.4 Civil Aviation Requirements for Air Traffic Services (CAR-11).
- 4.5 Civil Aviation Requirements for Aerodromes (CAR-14, Part-1)
- 4.6 Manual of Standards ATS (MATS Nepal)
- 4.7 Procedures for Air Navigation Services- Aerodrome (PANS-Aerodrome, Doc 9981)
- 4.8 Flight Operation Requirements

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SECTION 1. BACKGROUND

Nepal experiences its monsoon season from June through September annually, marked by heavy rainfall, strong winds, severe turbulence, and reduced visibility. These weather conditions significantly affect the Air Traffic Management (ATM) system's capacity, underscoring the critical need for monsoon awareness among aviation stakeholders. Nepal has encountered numerous operational challenges during this period, with past aircraft accident/incident data indicating a notable incidence of Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT) accidents and runway safety-related incidents.

Recognizing these challenges, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) conducts an annual Monsoon Awareness Programme and issues Monsoon Circulars to enhance safety during this period. This advisory circular is based on past DGCA monsoon circulars issued by CAAN and incorporates recommendations from previous ATC-Pilot interactions, aiming to address safety hazards encountered in previous monsoon seasons.

SECTION 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FLIGHT OPERATORS.

- a. VFR flights must avoid clouds. If not feasible, ascend to a safe altitude and maintain Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) or declare Instrument Flight Rules (IFR).
- b. Adhere strictly to Air Traffic Services (ATS) instructions and clearances, prioritizing flight safety.
- c. Flight crews should request alternate clearance if unable to comply with ATC-issued clearances.
- d. Mandatorily report weather deviations.
- e. Strictly adhere to prescribed weather minima.
- f. Obtain the latest meteorological briefing and prevent potential exposure to severe weather conditions.
- g. Acquire updated information on Meteorological (MET) phenomena and forecasted weather from TIA Meteorological Flight Data (MFD).
- h. Initiate a "go-around" in case of an unstable approach or await weather improvement.
- i. Avoid relying solely on GPS for navigation during adverse weather conditions in airspace or airfields lacking established provisions.
- j. Maintain a higher level of VHF discipline during flight, avoiding unnecessary arguments.
- k. Report to ATC regarding braking action and directional control when landing on runways with standing water.
- l. Ensure the Operations Control Center monitors changing weather patterns and provides the latest weather reports to flight crews.
- m. Ensure the following systems are kept serviceable, and aircraft are not released under Minimum Equipment List (MEL) during the monsoon period:
 - i. Anti-skid system
 - ii. Windshield wiper system
 - iii. Weather radar system (for equipped aircraft)
 - iv. Flap system
 - v. Reverse thrust system
 - v. Ground Proximity Warning System
 - vi. Communication and Navigation systems of the aircraft
- n. Ensure brakes are well serviced.
- o. Ensure tires have no visible threads during this period, and the shoulder tread (groove) is not entirely worn out.
- p. Maintain the windshield in good condition without crazing and scratches, ensuring the wiper is operational at all times.
- q. Carry extra holding fuel as per the company's fuel policy.

SECTION 3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ATC.

- a. Monitor the changing weather pattern and ensure that the latest weather report is provided to the flight crews.
- b. Depending upon the prevailing weather and its trend, apply extra separation whenever the situation warrants.
- c. Understand the practical problems of flight crews in flying during abnormal weather and cooperate and assist them as far as practicable.
- d. Information about the surface condition of runway, taxiway and apron should be provided to the flight crews in timely manner.
- e. Ensure continuous listening watch of all air traffic within the vicinity of aerodrome.
- f. Special VFR flight should be permitted as per the AIP Nepal ENR 1.1-1, 2.3 Special VFR Flight.
- g. Clear and concise clearances should be delivered to the flight crews.
- h. Due considerations should be given in maintaining the sequence during approach and landing.
- i. Maintain a higher grade of VHF discipline while providing ATC service and avoid undue argument in VHF.
- j. Information about braking action and directional control as reported by landing aircraft should be provided to other succeeding landing aircraft.

SECTION 4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AERODROME OPERATORS (CIVIL AVIATION OFFICES).

- a. Runway surface condition should be inspected for type, depth and coverage of standing water/contaminant. This information should be reported to control tower.
- b. The runway inspection should be done when weather conditions are changing/rapidly changing that may change the previous runway surface conditions report.
- c. The contaminant should be removed as quickly and completely as possible.
- d. If two consecutive landing flight crews report that the braking action as 'POOR', reassessment of the runway surface condition should be done.
- e. Runway, Taxiway and Apron markings, signage, lights should be checked regularly and maintained in operational condition.
- f. Drainage system at the airport be checked and maintained in operational condition throughout the season.
- g. Maintain grass and bush height, to mitigate the risk of wildlife hazard and to avoid obstruction to the visual and non-visual aids.
- h. En-route stations should maintain continuous watch and provide en-route weather on regular basis.
- i. Ensure that communication, navigation and surveillance facilities are appropriately maintained and in operational condition.

SECTION 5. COMPLIANCE OF THE ADVISORY CIRCULAR.

Recommendations of this circular are mostly advisory in nature and should be complied as far as practicable. However, this does not relieve ATC, Aerodrome Operators and Flight operators to comply with the mandatory requirements mentioned in the applicable CARs.

SECTION 6. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.

The Airport Chief and/or the Chief ATS as applicable should be responsible for the dissemination of information about this circular and should brief all relevant staffs regarding the circular and send the documented evidence to ANSSSD, CAAN in the format as prescribed in the Attachment 1 to this circular.

SECTION 7. CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE.

The implementation of provisions of this circular will be verified during the scheduled audit and random inspections.

SECTION 8. CONTACT OFFICE

For more information, suggestion and feedback, please contact:

ANS Safety Standards Department (For ANS related matters)
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ATTACHMENT 1. CIRCULAR BRIEFING FORM

Advisory number: ASSRD -----

Name of the Briefing Authority:

Designation and Office:

Venue of Briefing:

Date and Time of Briefing:

All contents of this circular ASSRD C 01/2023 have been appropriately briefed to all the participants as listed below.

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

S. No.	Participant's name	Designation	Division/Section/Unit/Office/ Department/	Signature	Remarks