

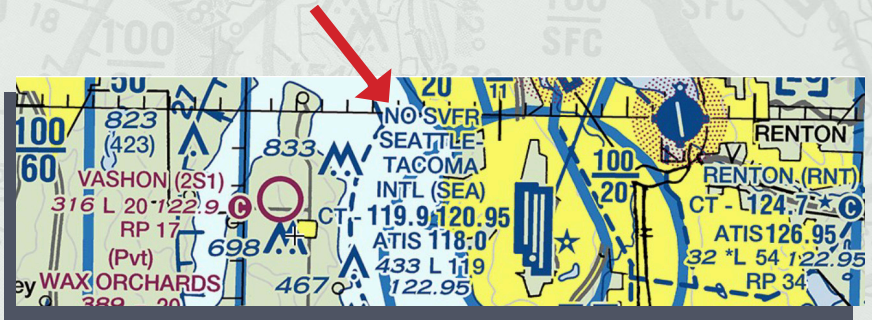
# SPECIAL VFR



This procedure allows pilots to operate in meteorological conditions that are less than those required for basic VFR flight in Class B, C, D, or E surface areas.

**Special VFR operations must be requested by the pilot and approved by ATC.** ATC will not suggest or solicit SVFR. To request SVFR, the pilot must contact the Tower located within the Class B, Class C, or Class D surface area. In a Class E surface area, a clearance may be obtained from the nearest Tower, FSS, or Center.

Fixed-wing aircraft are prohibited in some Class B and Class C surface areas due to the volume of IFR traffic. A list of these Class B and Class C surface areas is contained in 14 CFR Part 91, Appendix D, Section 3. They are also depicted on sectional aeronautical charts.



For SVFR to be approved:

- Pilots must have at least 1 statute mile inflight visibility.
- Pilots must remain clear of clouds.
- Pilots must receive an ATC clearance.
- Pilots must have at least 1 statute mile of ground visibility to takeoff or land.

# SPECIAL VFR



- SVFR is not permitted between sunset and sunrise unless the pilot is IFR qualified.
- The clearance will not contain a specific altitude as the pilot must remain clear of clouds. The controller may require the pilot to fly at or below a certain altitude due to other traffic, but the altitude specified will permit flight at or above the minimum safe altitude. In addition, at radar locations, flights may be vectored if necessary for control purposes or on pilot request.

**Example of a Special VFR request and clearance:**

*Pilot: "Request Special VFR into the Class D airspace."*

*Controller: "Cleared to enter Class D surface area north of Troutdale airport. Maintain Special VFR conditions at or below two thousand."*

**NOTE:** The pilot is responsible for obstacle or terrain clearance.

**NOTE:** 14 CFR Part 91 does not prohibit helicopter SVFR flight when the visibility is less than 1 mile nor are helicopters restricted from operating SVFR in locations that prohibit fixed-wing SVFR.