Weather Decision-Making Guide v. 1.1 Aug06

Baseline Personal Minimums

Weather Condition		VFR	MVFR	IFR	LIFR
Ceiling					
	Day				
	Night				
Visibility					
	Day				
	Night				

Turbulence		SE	ME	Make/Model
	Surface Wind Speed			
	Surface Wind Gust			
	Crosswind Component			

Performance		SE	ME	Make/Model
	Shortest runway			
	Highest terrain			
	Highest density altitude			

	If you are facing:		Adjust baseline personal minimums to:
Pilot	Illness, medication, stress, or fatigue; lack of currency (e.g., haven't flown for several weeks)	Add	*At least* 500 feet to ceiling
			At least ½ mile to visibility
Aircraft	An unfamiliar airplane, or an aircraft with unfamiliar avionics/ equipment:		*At least* 500 ft to runway length
enVironment	Airports and airspace with different terrain or unfamiliar characteristics	Subtract	*At least* 5 knots from winds
External Pressures	"Must meet" deadlines, passenger pressures; etc.		

Federal Aviation Administration

Getting the Maximum from Personal Minimums

Step 1 – Review Weather Minimums

Step 2 – Assess Your Experience and Personal Comfort Level

Step 3 – Consider Other Conditions

Step 4 – Assemble and Evaluate

Step 5 – Adjust for Specific Conditions

Step 6 – Stick to the Plan!

Category	Ceiling		Visibility
VFR	greater than 3,000 feet AGL	and	greater than 5 miles
Marginal VFR	1,000 to 3,000 feet AGL	and/or	3 to 5 miles
IFR	500 to below 1,000 feet AGL	and/or	1 mile to less than 3 miles
LIFR	below 500 feet AGL	and/or	less than 1 mile

Think of personal minimums as the human factors equivalent of reserve fuel. Personal minimums should be set so as to provide a solid safety buffer between the *skills required* for the specific flight you want to make, and the *skills available* to you through training, experience, currency, and proficiency.

Review and record your certification, training, and recent experience history on the chart below.

CERTIFICATION LEVEL	
Certificate level (e.g., private, commercial, ATP)	
Ratings (e.g., instrument, multiengine)	
Endorsements (e.g., complex, high performance, high altitude)	
TRAINING SUMMARY	
Flight review (e.g., certificate, rating, Wings)	
Instrument Proficiency Check	
Time since checkout in airplane 1	
Time since checkout in airplane 2	
Time since checkout in airplane 3	
Variation in equipment (e.g., GPS navigators, autopilot)	
EXPERIENCE	
Total flying time	
Years of flying experience	
RECENT EXPERIENCE (last 12 months)	
Hours	
Hours in this airplane (or identical model)	
Landings	
Night hours	
Night landings	
Hours flown in high density altitude	
Hours flown in mountainous terrain	
Crosswind landings	
IFR hours	
IMC hours (actual conditions)	
Approaches (actual or simulated)	

Summarize values for weather experience and "comfort level" in the chart below, and enter values for turbulence & performance.

Experience & "Comfort Level" Assessment Combined VFR & IFR					
Weather Condition		**VFR**	**MVFR**	**IFR**	**LIFR**
Ceiling					
	Day				
	Night				
Visibility					
	Day				
	Night				

Experience & "Comfort Level" Assessment Wind & Turbulence				
	SE	**ME**	**Make/ Model**	
Turbulence				
Surface wind speed				
Surface wind gusts				
Crosswind component				

Experience & "Comfort Level" Assessment Performance Factors			
	SE	**ME**	**Make/ Model**
Performance			
Shortest runway			
Highest terrain			
Highest density altitude			