

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration
VFR PILOT EXAM-O-GRAM* NO. 5

PREFLIGHT PLANNING FOR A VFR CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT
(Series 2)

1. HOW MAY YOU OBTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION FOR PREFLIGHT PLANNING? Visit your local Weather Service Office (WSO) or your nearest FAA Flight Service Station (FSS), or other flight service facility for a thorough weather briefing. The latest weather maps, area forecasts, terminal forecasts, winds-aloft reports, winds-aloft forecasts, advisories, hourly sequence reports, and pilot reports will be available. If a visit is impractical, telephone calls are welcomed. When telephoning, identify yourself as a pilot; state your intended route, destination, intended time of takeoff, and approximate time en route; and, advise if you intend to fly only VFR.

"FSS and Weather Service Telephone Numbers" section of the Airman's Information Manual (AIM) contains the location and telephone numbers of Weather Service Offices and FSS along with other pertinent information. Note the "restricted" telephone number listed for some Weather Service Offices on which only aviation weather information is given. Some Weather Service Offices have the Pilots' Automatic Telephone Weather Answering Service (PATWAS) which is a transcribed weather information service. For availability of weather information at various airports, check the Airport Directory, Airport/Facility Directory, or "FSS and Weather Service Telephone Numbers" section of AIM.

2. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE MORE AND BETTER WEATHER INFORMATION FOR PILOTS? Equipment is provided at selected Flight Service Stations by which weather and Notice to Airman data will be recorded on tapes and broadcast continuously over the low-frequency (200-400 KHz) navigational aid facility, or VORs and VORTACs.
3. WHAT FURTHER PREFLIGHT WEATHER PLANNING SHOULD BE DONE TO OBTAIN IN-FLIGHT WEATHER INFORMATION? From your charts and the appropriate section of the Airman's Information Manual (FSS and Weather Service Telephone Numbers), make a list of the Flight Service Stations along your route that broadcast the weather information. In addition to the scheduled broadcast, you may also contact them at any time for further information.
4. WHAT IS RECOMMENDED BY GOOD OPERATING PRACTICES? If the preflight weather briefing reveals questionable or marginal weather, use reasonable restraint in flying VFR. File a flight plan. Maintain a close check on the weather through your Flight Service Stations. Be sure to close your flight plan upon arrival.

BE SAFER WITH A FLIGHT PLAN

FAA Aeronautical Center
Flight Standards Technical Division
Operations Branch
P. O. Box 25082
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

Exam-O-Grams available free of charge - single copy only per request. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce this material.

* Exam-O-Grams are non-directive in nature and are issued solely as an information service to individuals interested in Airman Written Examinations.

Rev. 10/71