

NOTAMs – Notices to Air Missions

A NOTAM is a notice containing information that is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations such as aviators, dispatchers, airfield managers, and air traffic controllers. A NOTAM announces the abnormal status of a component of the national airspace system. This information may be short-term or long-term, and these status changes may not be known far enough in advance to be publicized by other means. Examples of information published via NOTAM may include runway closures, snow or ice accumulation on a runway, airfield lighting components out of service, and other major issues that impact flight operations and may be essential knowledge for the safe operation in and around an airfield.

Unfortunately, the presentation of NOTAM information can be convoluted and confusing, causing pertinent information to get buried under useless information. The failure of the current system of disseminating this information properly was recently responsible for the temporary grounding of all U.S. air traffic for several hours. Correcting many of these shortfalls is critical to the safe and efficient use and operation of U.S. airspace.

The NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023 (HR 346/S 66) directs the FAA to establish a task force that must:

- Review existing methods for presenting NOTAMs and flight operations information to pilots.
- Review regulations and policies relating to NOTAMs, including their content and presentation to pilots.
- Evaluate and determine best practices to organize, prioritize, and present flight operations information in a manner that optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information.
- Provide recommendations to improve the presentation of NOTAM information.
- Report to Congress on its reviews and evaluations.

Status of legislation:

As of April 8, 2024, there has been no movement by the FAA to comply with the directives of HR 346. Once the FAA reauthorization is complete, Congressional staffers will follow up with the FAA. The APA Government Affairs Committee will continue to monitor the situation.

For questions or additional information please email GAC-Chairman@alliedpilots.org.