AVIATORS' MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Recommended voluntary practices to advance flight safety, airmanship, and the general aviation community

INTRODUCTION

The AVIATORS' MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (Code of Conduct) presents broad guidance and recommendations for General Aviation (GA) pilots to improve airmanship, flight safety, and to sustain and improve the GA community.

The Code of Conduct presents a vision of excellence in GA aviation. Its principles both complement and supplement what is merely legal. The Code of Conduct is not a "standard" and is not intended to be implemented as such. This abridged version does not include Sample Recommended Practices.

I. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF AVIATORS

Pilots should:

a. make safety their number one priority,

b. seek excellence in airmanship,

c. develop and exercise good judgment,

d. recognize and manage risks effectively,

e. adhere to prudent operating practices and personal operating parameters (*e.g.,* minimums),

f. aspire to professionalism,

g. act with responsibility and courtesy, and

h. adhere to applicable laws and regulations.

II. PASSENGERS AND PEOPLE ON THE SURFACE

Pilots should:

a. maintain passenger safety first and then reasonable passenger comfort,

b. manage risks and avoid unnecessary risks to passengers and to people and property on the surface and in other aircraft,

c. brief passengers on planned flight procedures and inform them of any significant or unusual risks associated with the flight,

d. seek to prevent unsafe conduct by passengers, and

e. avoid operations that may alarm or annoy passengers or people on the surface.

III. TRAINING AND PROFICIENCY

Pilots should:

a. participate in training to maintain and improve proficiency beyond minimum legal requirements,

b. participate in flight safety education programs,

c. act with vigilance and avoid complacency,

d. train to recognize and deal effectively with emergencies, and

e. accurately log hours flown and maneuvers practiced to satisfy training and currency requirements.

IV. SECURITY

Pilots should:

a. seek to maintain the security of all persons and property associated with their aviation activities,

b. remain vigilant and immediately report suspicious, reckless or illegal activities,

c. secure their aircraft to prevent unauthorized use, and

d. avoid special-use airspace except when approved or necessary in an emergency.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Pilots should:

a. recognize and seek to mitigate the environmental impact of aircraft operations,

b. minimize the discharge of fuel, oil, and other chemicals into the environment, particularly during refueling, preflight preparations, and servicing,

c. avoid environmentally sensitive areas, and

d. mitigate aircraft noise in populated or other noise-sensitive areas and comply with applicable noise-abatement procedures.

VI. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Pilots should:

a. become familiar with and properly use appropriate available cost-effective technologies,

b. monitor applicable airport advisory frequencies and report position when approaching non-towered or unattended airports and other higher-risk areas,

c. use transponders or next-generation position-indicating technologies during in-flight operations unless otherwise authorized by ATC, inoperable, or not equipped, and use ATC "flight following" for VFR enroute operations, and

d. carry redundant transceivers and navigational equipment and use them in appropriate circumstances.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF GENERAL AVIATION

Pilots should:

a. advance and promote general aviation, safety, and adherence to the Code of Conduct,

b. volunteer in and contribute to organizations that promote general aviation, and use their aviation skills to contribute to society at large,

c. demonstrate appreciation for aviation service providers,

d. advance a general aviation culture that values openness, humility, positive attitudes, and the pursuit of personal improvement, and

e. promote ethical behavior within the GA community.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES; NOTICE

The unabridged AVIATORS' MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT and supporting materials are available at < http://www.secureav.com >.

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EDITS, ERRATA, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The AVIATORS' MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT is a living document, intended to be updated periodically to reflect changes in aviation practices and the aviation environment. Please send your suggestions, edits, errata, questions and comments to: < PEB@secureav.com >.

The AVIATORS' MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT has had the benefit of extensive editorial comment and suggestions by a diverse body of the GA community, and beyond. *See* < http://www.secureav.com/ack.doc >. The Permanent Editorial Board of the Code of Conduct is presented at < http://secureav.com/PEB.pdf >.

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