

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AERONAUTICS DIVISION**

**CHAPTER 1680-1-2  
LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF AIRPORTS**

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**1680-1-2.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this rule is to promote civil aviation and the safety of civil aviation by eliminating hazards; to provide certain prescribed standards for airport sites; to categorize airports as to use; to provide minimum airport standards.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §42-233. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 25, 1977.

**1680-1-2.02 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) For purposes of this rule, the following terms are defined:
- (a) "Aircraft" includes barren, airplane, hydroplane, and every other vehicle used for navigation through the air. A hydroplane, while at rest on water and while being operated on or immediately above water, shall be governed by the rules regarding water navigation; while being operated through the air otherwise than immediately above water, it shall be treated as an aircraft.
  - (b) "Airport" means any area of land or water which is used, or intended for use, for the landings- and take off of aircraft, and any appurtenant areas which are used, or intended for use, for airport buildings or other airport facilities or aviation easements or rights-of-way, together with all airport buildings and facilities located thereon.
  - (c) "Airport hazard" means any structure, object of natural growth, or use of land, which obstructs the airspace required for the flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at an airport or is otherwise hazardous to such landing or taking off.
  - (d) "Approach surface" means the imaginary sloping plan beginning at the end of a runway or landing strip and rising uniformly over the approach area at the required slope.
  - (e) "Effective Gradient" - The difference in elevation of high and low points on the runway divided by the runway length (in percent).
  - (f) "FAA" is Federal Aviation Administration.
  - (g) "Landing strip" means that part of the area within an airport boundary which either in its natural state or as a result of construction work, is suitable for the landing and take off of aircraft.
  - (h) "License Type" means one of the following: airport, heliport, seaplane base or Stolport.

(Rule 1680-1-2-.02, continued)

- (i) “Limited Airport” means an airport limited exclusively to the specific conditions listed in the Site Approval Order.
- (j) “Navigable Water” is any water capable of supporting interstate commerce.
- (k) “Office of Aeronautics” means the Department of Transportation.
- (l) “Person” means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association or body politic-, and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee or other similar representative thereof.
- (m) “Primary Surface” means an imaginary plane free of hazards, and centered on the runway safety area.
- (n) “Private Airport” means an airport used primarily by the owner, but which may be available for use by invitation of the owner. Commercial aeronautics operations such as sale of aircraft fuel or aviation supplies, flight training, rental aircraft or associated equipment, and carrying of passengers or cargo for compensation are specifically prohibited. Private airports do not require licensing by the State of Tennessee.
- (o) “Public Airport” means an airport, publicly or privately owned, which meets minimum physical and service standards and is open for use to the general flying public. Commercial aeronautical operations are authorized. Public Airports require licensing by the State of Tennessee.
- (p) “Public Airport License” denotes the document issued by the Department of Transportation which grants State of Tennessee approval for the use of an airport by the general public.
- (q) “Runway” means the paved, hard surfaced, or stabilized portion of a landing strip.
- (r) “Runway Safety Area” - usable landing area.
- (s) “Runway Clear Zone” - A flared approach zone off either end of a runway safety area which must be free of airport hazards to the approach surface as specified herein.
- (t) “Seaplane Base” means a designated area on a water surface where docking or ramping facilities are available for use by seaplanes or amphibious type aircraft.
- (u) “STOL Aircraft” signifies an aircraft of special design, but with performance characteristics enabling safe flight from a short field utilizing steep approaches and departures as normal aircraft operating procedures and not requiring unusual or special skills of the pilot in command.
- (v) “STOLport” denotes a landing area designated exclusively for the area of STOL Aircraft (SHORT TAKEOFF AND LANDING), with landing area and approach zone dimensions compatible with aircraft performance characteristics.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§42-2-102 and 42-2-119. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 26, 1977. Amendment filed December 12, 1986; effective January 26, 1987.

#### **1680-1-2-03 AIRPORT SITE APPROVAL.**

- (1) Owners of proposed public airports shall be required to apply for airport site approval prior to issuance of a license.
  - (a) Application of site approval shall be filed with the Office of Aeronautics.
  - (b) An applicant must be the owner or a lessee. Application for site approval by a lessee shall be consigned by the owner of the airport and a copy of the lease agreement filed with the Office of Aeronautics.
  - (c) An applicant must show that the minimum airport standards herein enumerated are attainable on any site proposed as a public airport.
  - (d) An Office of Aeronautics representative must personally inspect the proposed site and shall file a written report containing a recommendation with the Office of Aeronautics. Site approval shall be granted when it is shown that: (1) the site is adequate for the proposed airport and, (2) that safe air traffic patterns could be worked out for such proposed airport and for all existing airports and approved airport sites in its vicinity.
  - (e) Each Site Approval Order shall state the location of the proposed airport by: (1) geographical coordinates and, (2) distance and direction from an established nearby community. The order shall also include the name and mailing address of the applicant as well as a listing of any specific conditions for approval.
  - (f) A Site Approval Order for an airport shall remain in effect for one year from the date thereof unless an airport license has been issued. A site approval may be extended an additional year upon request of the applicant.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§42-233, 42-2-102, and 42-2-102. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 25, 1971. Amendment filed December 12, 1986; effective January 26, 1987.

#### **1680-1-2-04 PUBLIC AIRPORT LICENSES.**

- (1) All airports open to the public, and all airports on which commercial aeronautical operations are conducted, except those specifically exempted, are required to secure and maintain Public Airport Licenses and to meet the minimum standards for airports herein prescribed. Airports holding a valid Airport Operating Certificate issued by the FAA are specifically exempted.
  - (a) Application for license must be made on a form approved by the Office of Aeronautics.
  - (b) The application must be signed by the owner or lessee. The lease agreement containing the signature of the owner must be on file with the Office of Aeronautics.
  - (c) In the interest of public convenience or unusual circumstances, the Office of Aeronautics may approve an airport which does not meet the required standards by use of the term "Special" in conjunction with airport category and type on the airport license. The conditions under which a "Special" approval is granted shall become a part of the license and each renewal license issued, unless removed by appropriate Office of Aeronautics action.
  - (d) All licensed public airports are subject to inspection at any time.
  - (e) All licenses issued under this section will be effective from the date of issue through the expiration date listed on the face of the license.

(Rule 1680-1-2-.04, continued)

- (f) All airport licenses issued under this section, together with the conditions attached thereto, shall be posted in a prominent place at the airport. In the event there are no buildings at the airport, the license and conditions shall be displayed at the office or place of business of the caretaker or manager.
- (g) The Office of Aeronautics, may, after notice to the licensee and opportunity for hearing, revoke any license or renewal thereof, or refuse to issue a renewal, when it shall reasonably determine: (1) that there has been an abandonment of the airport as such, or (2) that there has been failure to comply with the conditions of the license or renewal thereof, or (3) that because of change of physical or legal conditions or circumstances the airport has become either unsafe or unusable for the aeronautical purposes for which the license was issued.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§42-233, 42-2-102, and 42-2-119. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 25, 1977. Amendment filed December 12, 1986; effective January 26, 1987.

#### **1680-1-2-.05 MINIMUM AIRPORT STANDARDS.**

##### (1) Subsection A - Airports

##### (a) Airport Dimensions (Also see Figure 1.)

Effective Length of Runway Safety Area	2,000 ft.*
Width of runway safety area	150 ft
Width of runway	40 ft
Maximum effective gradient	2%
Slope of Approach Surface	20:1
*Minimum length increased 10 % for each I of effective gradient.	

##### (b) STOLport Dimensions (Also see Figure 1.)

Effective Length of Runway Safety Area	1,500 ft*
Width of runway safety area	150 ft
Width of runway	40 ft
Maximum effective gradient	2%
Slope approach/departure surface	15:1
*Minimum length increased 10 % for each I % of effective gradient.	

##### (c) Facilities

1. Office of Aeronautics approved markers shall be installed on unpaved landing areas at 200 foot intervals along the useable width and at 150 foot intervals at the ends of the landing area.
2. Off-office of Aeronautics approved wind indicator must be installed.
3. A fire extinguisher which is capable of extinguishing all classes of fire must be available for immediate use.
4. An Office of Aeronautics approved runway lighting system must be installed prior to approval for nighttime operations.

(Rule 1680-1-2-.05, continued)

## (d) Miscellaneous

1. Airport hazards as determined by the Office of Aeronautics must be marked and must also be lighted if the airport is approved for nighttime operation.
2. The licensee shall notify the Office of Aeronautics in writing whenever alternations, improvements, or major repairs are to be accomplished on the airport.
3. The landing area, taxiways, and ramp area must be maintained in such a manner as to assure the safe operation of aircraft.
4. The owner of a closed or abandoned airport shall remove all airport identifying markers and wind indicators and shall place upon the runway an approved "Closed" marker. This marker shall be maintained until the runway is no longer identifiable.

## (2) Sub-paragraph B - Heliports

## (a) Definitions:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Heliport                    | An area, either at ground level or elevated on a structure, that is used for the landing and taking off of helicopters.   |
| 2. Landing and Takeoff Area    | That specific area in which the helicopter actually lands and takes off, including the touchdown area.  |
| 3. Touchdown Area              | That part of the landing or takeoff area where it is preferred that the helicopter alight.  |
| 4. Peripheral Area             | A safety zone that provides an obstruction-free area on all sides of the landing and takeoff area.  |
| 5. Obstruction Clearance Plane | Imaginary planes leading outward and upward from the take-off and landing area at angles compatible with the flight characteristics of the helicopter and type of operations anticipated. |

## (b) Dimensions (See Figure 2)

Landing and Takeoff Area	50 ft. x 50 ft.
Touchdown Area	20 ft. x 20 ft.
Peripheral Area Width	10 ft.
Obstruction Clearance Slope	8:1

## (c) Facilities

1. Office of Aeronautics approved wind indicator must be installed.
2. A fire extinguisher which is capable of extinguishing all classes of fire must be immediately available.

(Rule 1680-1-2-.05, continued)

3. All heliports shall be marked with standard heliport or hospital heliport markings approved by the Office of Aeronautics. Markings shall be painted on paved or concrete surfaces; patio stones painted suitable colors may be used on turf areas.
4. An Office of Aeronautics approved lighting system must be installed proper to approval for nighttime operations.

(d) Miscellaneous

1. Obstructions as determined by the Office of Aeronautics must be marked and must also be lighted if the airport is approved for nighttime operations.
2. The licensee shall notify the Office of Aeronautics in writing whenever alterations, improvements, or major repairs are to be made.
3. The landing area must be maintained so as to assure safe operations.

(3) Subparagraph C - Seaplane Bases

- (a) Since the length of waterway necessary for seaplanes varies greatly depending on the airplane types, the purpose of this subsection will only be to specify that each seaplane base must be judged individually with regard to the type of seaplanes using the facility. However, in no case, will approach-departure paths be less than a 20:1 slope.

(b) Facilities

1. Office of Aeronautics approved wind indicator must be installed.
2. A fire extinguisher which is capable of extinguishing ail classes of fire must be available for immediate use.
3. At least three life preservers of the ring or throwing type, with line attached to each, shall be available during hours of operation.
4. The minimum water depths and landing area lengths shall be posted at the docking or beaching area.

(c) Miscellaneous

1. Airport hazards as determined by the Office of Aeronautics must be marked.
2. No seaplane base shall be approved which requires aircraft to operate in close proximity to a bridge, public beach, power line, boat dock or other area which could constitute a danger to persons or property.
3. No seaplane base shall be approved on the navigable waters of Tennessee unless a permit is first obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Tennessee Valley Authority, as appropriate. Additionally, proof of a lease or ownership of the needed land adjacent to the water areas of the base is required.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§42-233, 42-2-102, and 42-2-119. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 25, 1977. Amendment filed December 12, 1986; effective January 26, 1987.

(Rule 1680-1-2-.05, continued)

**1680-1-2-.06 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§42-2-102 and 42-2-119. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 25, 1977. Repeal filed December 12, 1986; effective January 26, 1987.

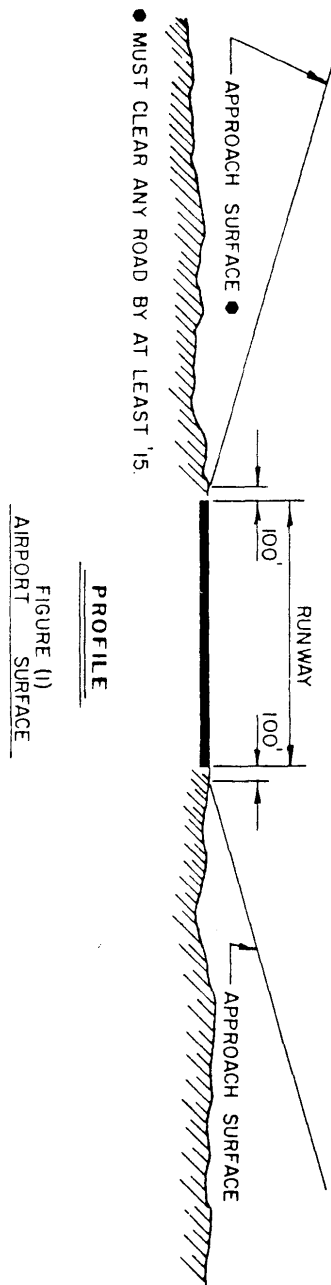
**1680-1-2-.07 AIRPORT MARKINGS.** Displaced thresholds at non-paved public airports shall be marked with at least four markers on each side of the landing area where the effective length commences. The threshold markers shall be no more than five feet apart, and placed on a center line 90 degrees to the runway heading.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §42-233. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 25, 1977.

**1680-1-2-.08 EXEMPTIONS.** The provisions of the foregoing shall not apply to airports owned or operated by the United States. The Office of Aeronautics may from time to time, to the extent necessary, exempt any other airport from any requirement if it finds that the application of such a requirement would constitute an undue burden on such airport and is not required in the interest of public safety.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§42-2-102 and 42-2-119. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed July 26, 1977; effective August 25, 1977. Amendment filed December 12, 1986; effective January 26, 1987.

1680-1-2-.09 EXHIBITS.



January, 1987 (Revised)

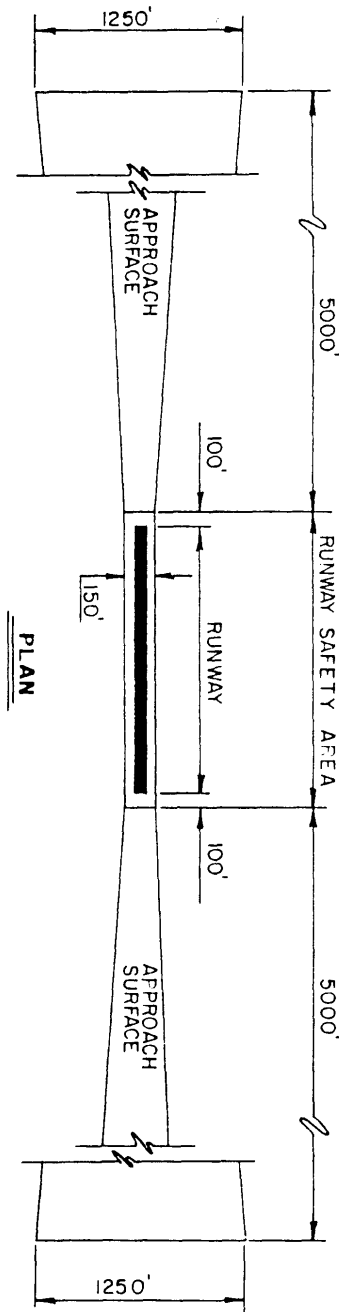
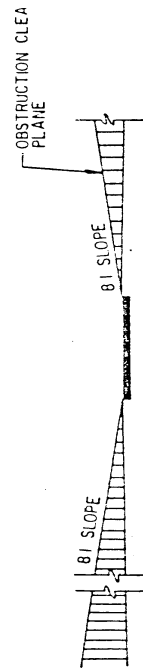
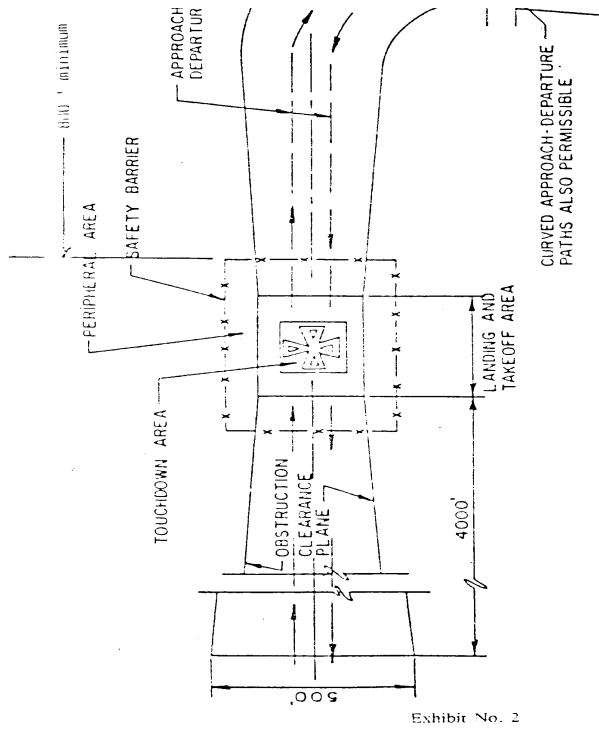


Exhibit No. 1  
25

(Rule 1680-1-2-.09, continued)



EXAMPLE OF FIGURE (2) HELIPORT LAYOUT

(Rule 1680-1-2-.09, continued)

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF AERONAUTICS**

Application for Airport Site Approval

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Airport Name \_\_\_\_\_

Airport \_\_\_\_\_ Heliport \_\_\_\_\_ Stol Port \_\_\_\_\_ Seaplane Base \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_ Population \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

Distance from Nearest Town or City \_\_\_\_\_ miles

Direction \_\_\_\_\_

FAA Airspace approval applied for \_\_\_\_\_ Received \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Runway(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Length \_\_\_\_\_

Elevation \_\_\_\_\_

Lights \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Traffic Indicator \_\_\_\_\_

Radio Facilities \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Navigational Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Direction \_\_\_\_\_ Distance \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Weather Information Availability \_\_\_\_\_

Airport Operator (if different from owner)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

(Enclose copy of Lease Agreement)

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Airport Owner)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit 3

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January, 1987 (Revised)

(Rule 1680-1-2-.09, continued)

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
APPLICATION FOR  
PUBLIC AIRPORT LICENSE**



Name of Airport	County	City
Name of Owner		Type of Operation * (See below)
Address of Owner		Phone Number
Name or Manager		
Address of Manager		Phone Number
Name of Aviation Committee Chairman (If applicable)		Phone Number
Name(s) of Mayor and/or County Judge if Publicly Owned		

**REMARKS:**

Application is hereby made for license of the airport described above. The information shown on the reverse of this application has been made current, as applicable, including local radio navigation aids, availability of food services, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner/Designated Represented

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\*Reference type of operation: Enter either commercial or personal use. Enter commercial if any type of commercial operation is conducted, such as aircraft or associated equipment rental, sale of aviation products, flight instruction or carrying or passengers or cargo for compensation.

Exhibit No. 4

(Rule 1680-1-2-.09, continued)

Elev.


Location Identifier:  
 Coordinates:  
 From City:  
 Runways:  
 Lights:  
 Traffic Indicator:  
 Radio Facilities:  
 Weather:  
 Remarks: Airport

Operator:  
 Manager:  
 Attended  
 Fuel:  
 Repairs:  
 Storage:  
 Accommodations:  
 Transportation:  
 Nautical Miles From

Exhibit No. 5

(Rule 1680-1-2-.09, continued)

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



No. \_\_\_\_\_

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Latitude; \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude;  
in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(COUNTY) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Air Operations.

This license is valid until \_\_\_\_\_, and only so long as operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the United States and the State of Tennessee governing the operations of Civil Aircraft and Civil Landing Area Operations.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR

DT-1237

© GOR 5 525

Exhibit No. 6

(Rule 1680-1-2-.09, continued)

Airport

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic Coordinates Lat. \_\_\_\_\_ N, Long  
\_\_\_\_\_ W

Runway Size \_\_\_\_\_ Long \_\_\_\_\_ Wide

(Heliport) Ground Level \_\_\_\_\_ Elevated \_\_\_\_\_

Elevation:

Use:

Facilities:

Communications:

Location from town:

Distance and Radial from closest VOR:

Operation Information

\_\_\_\_\_ Open to Public

\_\_\_\_\_ Prior Permission Requested

\_\_\_\_\_ Restricted, emergency only

Do you want your Airport listed on a sectional Aeronautical Chart? \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit No. 7

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§42-2-102 and 42-2-119. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 12, 1974; effective September 11, 1974. Amendment filed December 12, 1986; effective January 26, 1987.