

► This RA has been substantially re-written; for clarity no change marks are presented – please read the RA in its entirety ◀

## RA 3278 – Snow and Ice Operations

### Rationale

*During operations in adverse winter conditions, the presence of snow, slush, ice and other similar contaminants can significantly degrade the visual references and friction performance of Aerodrome surfaces. Without appropriate management of such contaminants, Aerodrome surfaces may become unsafe and unavailable for use. Appropriate planning for and response to adverse winter conditions will ensure that Aerodromes continue to meet functional requirements and ensure that a Safe Operating Environment is maintained and disruption to operations are minimized.*

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**3278(1): Snow and Ice Operations**

**3278(2): Withdrawn – Incorporated into RA 3278(1)**

### Regulation 3278(1)

#### Snow and Ice Operations

3278(1) When the Aerodrome is available for use during adverse winter conditions, the Head of Establishment (HoE) **shall** ensure that contaminants on the Movement Area are adequately managed to enable the safe operation of Aircraft at all times.

### Acceptable Means of Compliance 3278(1)

#### Snow and Ice Operations

1. An Aerodrome Snow and Ice Control Plan **should** be developed and implemented in accordance with (iaw) AP119J-0100-1<sup>1</sup>, detailing the priority order of and extent to which surfaces are to be cleared of contaminants.
2. The Aerodrome Snow and Ice Control Plan **should** be reviewed annually.
3. Contaminants, such as snow, slush and ice, **should** be removed from the surface of Runways in use and other Movement Areas, iaw Aerodrome requirements, as rapidly and completely as possible to minimize accumulation.
4. The friction of the area treated **should** be measured periodically after the contaminants are removed, iaw RA 3272(1)<sup>2</sup>.
5. The evaluation and reporting of Runway surface conditions **should** be carried out iaw RA 3272(2)<sup>3</sup>.
6. The use of chemicals to remove or to prevent or disperse the formation of ice and frost on Aerodrome pavements **should** be carried out iaw AP119J-0100-1 and subject to environmental management iaw RA 1800<sup>4</sup>.

### Guidance Material 3278(1)

#### Snow and Ice Operations

7. The prioritisation policy for the allocation of fleet-managed assets to support snow and ice control operations is contained in AP119J-0100-1.
8. AP119J-0100-1 contains detailed guidance on the planning, operations and reporting requirements for snow and ice control, and the types of chemicals currently approved for use on MOD Aerodromes.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to AP119J-0100-1 – Snow Clearance and Ice Control of Airfields.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to RA 3272(1): Continuous Friction Monitoring Equipment.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to RA 3272(2): Reporting of Runway Surface Conditions.

<sup>4</sup> Refer to RA 1800 – Aerodrome and Air Weapon Range Aviation Activity - Management of Environmental Impacts and Risks.

**Guidance  
Material  
3278(1)**

9. Further guidance on the control and removal of contaminants is contained in International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Doc 9137<sup>5</sup> and Civil Air Publication (CAP) 168, Appendix 3G<sup>6</sup>.

10. 'Op BLACKTOP' is the term commonly used to describe activation of the Aerodrome Snow and Ice Control Plan. For the UK, this typically occurs between 1 November to 30 April when winter conditions are most likely to be present, however, this may vary each year depending on the forecast meteorological conditions. The Aerodrome Operator is usually responsible for deciding if Op BLACKTOP is required to start early or finish later than these dates.

11. Establishments are advised to review the Aerodrome Snow and Ice Control Plan following the winter period, to assess effectiveness and any areas for improvement.

12. Runways affected by compacted snow and ice are not normally available for use, but this RA does not prohibit operations taking place where it is deemed operationally essential and safe to do so.

**Civil Equivalence**

13. This Regulation is in line with ICAO Annex 14 Vol I ninth edition, para 10.3.1 – 10.3.6.

**Regulation  
3278(2)**

**Aerodrome Snow and Ice Plan**

3278(2) Withdrawn – Incorporated into RA 3278(1).

**Acceptable  
Means of  
Compliance  
3278(2)**

**Aerodrome Snow and Ice Plan**

14. Withdrawn – Incorporated into RA 3278(1).

**Guidance  
Material**

**Aerodrome Snow and Ice Plan**

15. Withdrawn – Incorporated into RA 3278(1).

<sup>5</sup> Refer to ICAO Doc 9137 – Airport Services Manual, Part 2.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to CAP 168 – Licensing of Aerodromes, Appendix 3G: Care of pavements during winter conditions – improving Surface friction by removal of contaminants.