

# GATEWAY AIRPORT OPERATIONS

# SAFETY BULLETIN

SAF25-02-001

**Issue Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2025

**Effective Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023

**Subject:** Wing Tip Clearance Escort (WTCE) Procedure

**Briefing:**

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to standardize Wing Tip Clearance Escorts (WTCE) for aircraft under tow that are conducted as a safety measure for aircraft larger than the published design group for the taxiway.

## PUBLICATION

- I. **Taxiway Tango (TWY T)** - is a Group III taxiway and can accommodate aircraft with a wingspan up to 117 feet. Self-powered (taxi) aircraft operations are prohibited for aircraft with wingspan of 118 feet and greater on TWY T.
- II. **Taxiway Victor (TWY V)** - is a Group III taxiway and can accommodate aircraft with a wingspan up to 117 feet. Self-powered (taxi) aircraft operations are prohibited for aircraft with wingspan of 118 feet and greater on TWY V.
- III. **Taxiway Whiskey (TWY W)** - is a Group III taxiway and can accommodate aircraft with a wingspan up to 117 feet. Self-powered (taxi) aircraft operations are prohibited for aircraft with wingspan of 118 feet and greater on TWY W.
- IV. **Taxiway Yankee (TWY Y)** - is a Group II taxiway and can accommodate aircraft with a wingspan up to 79 feet. Self-powered (taxi) aircraft operations are prohibited for aircraft with wingspan of 80 feet and greater on TWY V.

## **GROUND HANDLER REQUIREMENTS**

- I. Airport Security Badge holder.
  - A. Must be the correct badge type corresponding to ALL areas in which the WTCE will occur in or pass through.
- II. Airport endorsement to conduct aircraft tow operations on movement areas.
- III. Airport endorsement to operate vehicles and equipment within the non-movement area.
- IV. Training in WTCE procedure documented and maintained by the ground handler.

## **PROCEDURE**

- I. Notifications
  - A. To request a non-powered aircraft operation (aircraft tow) of aircraft with a wingspan of 118 feet or greater, the ground handler of the aircraft shall contact Airport Operations at 480-988-7570 with 72 hours of notice.
    1. Airport Operations will collect the specific wingspan of the aircraft to be used.
    2. Airport Operations will field verify wing tip clearance measurements to known and predictable obstructions.
      - a. If known obstructions conflict with the provided aircraft wingspan, the operation will be denied.
      - b. If known obstructions DO NOT conflict with the provided aircraft wingspan, Airport Operations will notify the requesting ground handler that there were no discovered conflicts at the time of the field verification.
    3. The ground handler shall provide the scheduled ETA for the aircraft to Airport Operations 72 hours in advance and provide any applicable updates.
    4. The ground handler shall contact Airport Operations 30 minutes before aircraft ETA.
- II. Airport Operations Wing Walking
  - A. WTCE may only be conducted by aircraft under tow. WTCE of self-powered (taxi) aircraft operations are prohibited.
  - B. ATCT will contact Airport Operations and request an AIRPORT OPERATIONS WING WALK for self-powered (taxi) aircraft operations on taxiways for aircraft greater than published limitations of any movement area.
  - C. Airport Operations will conduct an AIRPORT OPERATIONS WING WALK in accordance with LOA and airport procedures.
  - D. Airport Operations will conduct AIRPORT OPERATIONS WING WALK to accommodate the shutdown of all aircraft engines.

### III. Wing Tip Clearance Escort

#### A. Inbound Aircraft

1. The ground handler's tow team and WTCE team shall stage in accordance with OPS direction.
2. The tow team shall contact ATCT on Gateway Ground frequency 128.25, and state company "CALL SIGN", location, and intention.
3. Upon ATCT approval, the tow team shall enter the movement area, connect to aircraft, and prepare for tow in accordance with company policy.
4. Once the tow team is prepared to tow, "CALL SIGN" shall establish company radio contact with the WTCE team.
5. The tow team shall then contact ATCT and state that "CALL SIGN" are prepared for tow and request routing.
6. Upon ATCT approval, the tow team shall execute tow routing exactly as established by ATCT.
  - a. The WTCE team shall proceed on the service road(s) in parallel with the tow team to ensure physical clearance of the aircraft from all fixed or movable objects to include vehicles and equipment traveling on the service road(s).
  - b. In the event that a hazard is detected the WTCE team shall immediately direct the tow team to hold position.
    - i. Tow team shall immediately notify ATCT of specific location and that the aircraft is holding position due to identified hazard.
    - ii. Once hazard has been removed or mitigated the tow team shall contact ATCT and request to proceed.
    - iii. Upon ATCT approval, the tow team shall execute tow routing exactly as established by ATCT.
  - c. Once the aircraft has been fully towed off the movement area, the tow team shall notify ATCT that "CALL SIGN" are "Off the Movement Area".

## B. Outbound Aircraft

1. The tow team shall connect to aircraft and prepare for tow in accordance with company policy.
2. Once the tow team is prepared to tow, "CALL SIGN" shall establish company radio contact with the WTCE team.
3. The tow team shall contact ATCT on Gateway Ground frequency 128.25, and state company "CALL SIGN", location, and state that "CALL SIGN" are prepared for tow and request routing.
4. Upon ATCT approval, the tow team shall execute tow routing exactly as established by ATCT.
  - a. The WTCE team shall proceed on the service road(s) in parallel with the tow team to ensure physical clearance of the aircraft from all fixed or movable objects to include vehicles and equipment traveling on the service road(s).
  - b. In the event that a hazard is detected the WTCE team shall immediately direct the tow team to hold position.
    - i. Tow team shall immediately notify ATCT of specific location and that the aircraft is holding position due to identified hazard.
    - ii. Once hazard has been removed or mitigated the tow team shall contact ATCT and request to proceed.
    - iii. Upon ATCT approval, the tow team shall execute tow routing exactly as established by ATCT.
  - c. The tow team shall notify ATCT the tow is complete.
  - d. The tow team shall disconnect from aircraft in accordance with company policy and leave the movement area.
  - e. Once the tow team is off the movement area, the tow team shall notify ATCT that "CALL SIGN" are "Off the Movement Area".

## REFERENCE

1. *PMGAA Airport Layout Plan (ALP)*
2. *Airport Rules and Regulations*
3. *Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5300-13*
4. *Mesa Gateway Airport Facility Directory*