

CHAPTER 720  
IOWA AIRPORT REGISTRATION  
[Prior to 6/3/87, Transportation Department [820]—(04,C)Ch 1]

**761—720.1(328) Scope.** This chapter establishes site approval, registration and registration renewal requirements and minimum safety standards for airports open for use by the public. It also establishes site approval requirements for airports maintained for private use.

**761—720.2(328) Definitions.** The definitions in Iowa Code section 328.1 and rule 761—700.1(328) shall apply to this chapter. In addition:

“*Obstruction*” means any structure, object of natural growth, or use of land that impedes the airspace required for the takeoff or landing of aircraft at an airport.

“*Private use*” means available for use by the owner or by the owner and other persons authorized by the owner.

“*Public use*” means available for use by the general public without prior approval from the owner or operator.

**761—720.3(328) Airport site approval required.** A person or governmental subdivision planning to construct or establish an airport shall obtain a certificate of airport site approval from the department before the site is acquired or before the airport is constructed or established.

**761—720.4(328) Public-use airport.** The site approval requirements of this rule apply to proposed public-use airports. The remaining requirements apply to existing public-use airports.

**720.4(1) Application for site approval.** The sponsor shall complete Iowa Department of Transportation Form 300025, “Airport Site Approval and New Registration Application,” and submit it to the modal transportation bureau. This form is available from the Modal Transportation Bureau, Iowa Department of Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010; telephone (515)239-1468; or through the department’s website at [www.iowadot.gov](http://www.iowadot.gov).

**720.4(2) Site requirements.** Before issuing a certificate of airport site approval, the department shall:

a. Review the application and, if necessary, inspect the site. The sponsor shall ensure access to the site for the inspection at a reasonable time convenient for department personnel.

b. Require a current airspace determination issued by the FAA which concludes that the proposed site will not adversely affect the safe and efficient use of airspace.

**720.4(3) Certificate of site approval.**

a. After the application, inspection and FAA approval requirements have been met, the department shall issue a certificate of site approval for the airport if it complies with the minimum airport safety standards established by the department.

b. The certificate of site approval shall locate the proposed airport by geographical coordinates; section, township and range; and distance and direction from an established nearby community.

c. The certificate of site approval shall be valid for two years from the date of issuance.

d. Aircraft operations shall not be permitted at the proposed site prior to airport registration.

**720.4(4) Registration.** When construction is complete, the sponsor shall notify the department. The department shall inspect the airport and, if the airport is in compliance with the minimum safety standards designated by the department, shall issue the airport registration certificate.

**720.4(5) Registration renewal.** Each airport shall apply annually for a registration renewal on a form provided by the department. The department shall issue a registration certificate to a public-use airport if the airport is in compliance with the minimum safety standards designated by the department.

**720.4(6) Airport inspection.** Each registered public-use airport is subject to inspection by the department at any reasonable time. If the inspection by the department reveals an unsafe condition or a failure to meet the minimum safety standards, the department shall record that fact and shall notify the airport sponsor in writing with necessary corrective actions. Failure to implement corrective actions may result in airport registration revocation or denial. An FAA inspection of an airport certified under 14 CFR Part 139 may be accepted in lieu of an inspection by the department.

**720.4(7) Posting.** The airport registration certificate shall be posted in a prominent place available to the public at the airport. If there are no buildings at the airport, the registration shall be displayed at the office of the airport manager or caretaker.

**720.4(8) Revocation.** Rescinded IAB 7/4/07, effective 8/8/07.  
[ARC 3301C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17; ARC 5943C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 11/10/21]

**761—720.5(328) Private-use airport.** This rule applies to a proposed, new airport to be maintained for private use. The sponsor shall complete an application for a certificate of site approval on Form 300025 and submit it to the modal transportation bureau. In the application, the sponsor shall certify that the airport, when completed, will be safe and adequate for the sponsor's intended use.  
[ARC 5943C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 11/10/21]

**761—720.6(328) Revocation or denial.** The department may revoke or deny a certificate of registration or certificate of site approval pursuant to Iowa Code section 328.19.

**761—720.7 to 720.9** Reserved.

**761—720.10(328) Minimum safety standards.** The minimum safety standards for a public-use airport are as follows:

**720.10(1) Obstruction-free area.**

a. The following areas of the airport shall be free of any obstructions with the exception of operational and frangible equipment that is essential for operation of the airport:

- (1) Within 30 feet of runway edge markers along the entire length of a nonpaved runway.
- (2) Within 125 feet of the centerline of a paved runway.
- (3) Within 200 feet of the end of any paved runway.
- (4) In no case shall a building be closer than 50 feet from a prepared runway surface. If buildings are on both sides of a runway, they shall be no closer than 125 feet from the runway centerline.

b. An object of natural growth, terrain, or permanent or temporary construction within the areas listed in paragraph "a" of this subrule shall be removed by the sponsor.

c. The following areas of the airport shall be free of all agricultural activities (i.e., crops or farm equipment) in excess of 8 inches in height:

- (1) Within 50 feet of paved runway surfaces and 200 feet from paved runway ends.
- (2) Within 60 feet of a nonpaved runway centerline.
- (3) Within a 100-foot radius of automated weather observing system equipment.

**720.10(2) Runway.**

a. *Width.* The minimum usable prepared runway width shall be 50 feet.

b. *Marking.*

(1) Paved runways. Paved runways shall be marked in accordance with FAA Circular 150/5340-1M (Standards for Airport Markings) as amended through May 10, 2019.

(2) Nonpaved runways. Airport markers shall be approved by the modal transportation bureau. Markers shall be placed 200 feet apart outlining the length of the landing surface. Thresholds shall be marked using six markers placed perpendicular to the runway heading.

c. *Line of sight.* The runway sight distance shall provide an unobstructed line of sight from any point 5 feet above the runway surface to any other point 5 feet above the runway surface for the entire length of the runway; or the sponsor shall post in a conspicuous location a warning about the obstruction in the line of sight.

d. *Temporary warning.* Any part of the runway environment other than the runway which has become temporarily unsafe, or for any reason is not available for use, shall be marked by suitable flags, barriers or flares clearly showing the boundaries of the unsafe or unusable area.

e. *Building location.* Rescinded IAB 7/4/07, effective 8/8/07.

**720.10(3) Approach zones.**

a. Approaches shall be clear of obstructions above a glide path of 20:1 from the ends of each usable runway. If an obstruction exists in an approach zone, the runway threshold on a paved runway shall be

displaced in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5340-1M (Standards for Airport Markings) as amended through May 10, 2019. On a nonpaved runway, the runway end markers shall be relocated to provide the prescribed obstruction clearance. The runway length remaining between the displaced threshold and the departure end of the runway is the landing distance available.

*b.* When the approach zone to any runway crosses a road or railroad, the glide path on a 20:1 ratio shall pass at least 17 feet above an interstate highway, 15 feet above any other public roadway, 10 feet above a private road, and 23 feet above a railroad.

**720.10(4) Facilities.** The airport shall provide all of the following facilities:

*a. Wind indicator.* The airport shall be equipped with a wind sock, blaze orange in color, which shall be clearly visible from the traffic pattern altitude within one mile of the airport during daylight hours. If the airport is lighted for night operation, the wind sock shall also be lighted.

*b. Lighting.* If an airport is lighted for night operation, the system shall be lighted from dusk to dawn. An operable air-to-ground controller for the lighting system will meet this requirement.

*c. Telephone.* A telephone shall be available for public use.

*d. Fire extinguisher.* At least one operational class B and class C fire extinguisher capable of extinguishing all classes of fires shall be readily accessible to aircraft fueling or ramp areas.

[ARC 3301C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17; ARC 5943C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 11/10/21]

**761—720.11 to 720.14** Reserved.

**761—720.15(328) Airport closing.**

**720.15(1) Notice.** When an airport ceases operation for any reason, the sponsor shall notify the department, return the registration certificate and mark the landing area to clearly indicate that the airport is closed to air traffic.

**720.15(2) Marking.** All marking indicating a usable runway shall be obliterated. The sponsor shall place at a central location a yellow X in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5340-1M (Standards for Airport Markings) as amended through May 10, 2019.

**720.15(3) Temporary closing.** When conditions require the temporary closing of a runway, it shall be marked on both ends with a yellow X in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5340-1M (Standards for Airport Markings) as amended through May 10, 2019.

**720.15(4) Repayment of financial assistance.** Within 30 days of closing an airport (other than temporary closing), the sponsor shall request from the department a review of contractual obligations that require repayment of financial assistance. The department will provide a determination detailing grant obligations that must be repaid. Any repayment of grants must be made to the department in no more than five equal annual installments, beginning one year from the airport's closure date. If an alternative future use of the airport facility is planned for a project that creates jobs and expands the economy, the sponsor may, within 30 days of the department's determination, request forgiveness of repayment. The request must include a plan detailing the alternative future use of the airport facility, an explanation of how the alternative future use creates jobs and expands the economy, a cost-benefit analysis from the sponsor, a commitment of private investment in the project equal to at least two times the amount of repayment due to the state, and a commitment from the sponsor, or associated political subdivision(s), to complete the alternative use project within five years. The department will review the request for forgiveness of repayment and approve or deny the request within 60 days of receipt.

[ARC 3301C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17; ARC 5943C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 11/10/21]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 328.1, 328.12, 328.19 and 328.35 and 2016 Iowa Acts, chapter 1131, section 3.

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