

IFALPA info for pilots bound for USA

Runway shortened guidance in the United States

As Chicago O'Hare (KORD) shortened Runway 32L, NOTAM's were posted and construction began. Throughout the course of a few weeks, four aircraft either took off or landed inside the construction areas. The FAA convened a Safety Risk Management Panel that involved all stakeholders, and ALPA-I put together a very robust case for why change was needed.

The guidance below now backs up a pilot in case of a missed NOTAM or of a pop-up closure for such small, short, temporary projects as repainting or rubber removal. The use of the new "shortened" runway terminology will be used at any US airport if they are working near or on the runway.

ATIS:

When a runway length has been temporarily or permanently shortened, the word "WARNING" will preface the runway number, and the word "shortened" will be included in the text of the message. The ATIS include available runway length, as stated in the NOTAM, and must be broadcast for the duration of the construction project.

Example: "Warning, Runway One-Zero has been shortened, nine-thousand eight hundred and fifty feet available."

Departure Information:

ATC will not use the term "full length" when the runway length available for departures has been temporarily shortened. The

term "full length" could be interpreted by the pilot(s) as the available runway length prior to the runway's being shortened. Whenever a runway length has been temporarily or permanently shortened, the word "shortened" will be used immediately following the runway number as part of the line-up-and-wait clearance.

Example: "Airline 123, Runway Two-Seven shortened, line up and wait"; "Airline 123, Runway Two-Seven shortened, cleared for takeoff."

Landing Information:

The addition of "shortened" must be included in the landing clearance for the duration of the construction project when the runway is temporarily shortened.

Example: "Airline 789, Runway Two-Seven shortened, continue"; "Airline 789, Runway Two-Seven shortened, cleared to land."

ATC phraseology will include "warning" and "shortened" for operations on permanently shortened runways for at least 30 days or until the Airport/Facility Directory has been updated, whichever is longer.