

Removal of Cloud Trigger for ATC Low Visibility Procedures at London Heathrow

Over the past year, NATS has worked together with Heathrow-based airlines, Heathrow Airport, the UK Met Office and the UK CAA in order to agree upon the removal of cloud ceiling as a trigger for entering ATC Low Visibility Procedures (LVP).

From the 1st of October 2015, Heathrow ATC will only enter LVP when the RVR visibility are less than 600m.

An update to the UK AIP entry for London Heathrow has been submitted, and a NOTAM will be in effect until such time that the updated AIP is published.

Promulgation of the status of LVP at Heathrow will not change. The message: 'ATC Low Visibility Procedures in force' will be appended to the Heathrow ATIS as appropriate, and this message will be passed by RT to aircraft already in contact with Heathrow ATC.

It is very important that flight crews understand that if the RVR is 600m or greater, regardless of cloud, they should not expect the ILS signal to be protected to permit CAT II/III approaches.

Where the cloud ceiling is below 200ft, and Low Visibility Procedures are not in force, Heathrow Tower ATC will remind arriving flight crews that only CAT I approaches are in operation.

Feedback should be directed to:

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