

WISCONSIN STATE AIRPORT SYSTEM PLAN, 2020

Airport Classification Scheme

Air Carrier/Cargo (AC/C) airports are designated to accommodate virtually all aircraft up to and in some cases, including wide body jets and large military transports. Airports in this category are usually reference by the type of air carrier service being provided.

- Short-haul air carrier airports serve scheduled, nonstop, airline markets and routes of less than 500 miles. Short-haul air carriers typically use aircraft weighing less than 60,000 pounds. In Wisconsin, short-haul carrier airports normally have a primary runway length of 6,500 to 7,800 feet.
- Medium-haul air carrier airports serve scheduled, nonstop, airline markets and routes of between 500 and 1,500 miles. Medium-haul air carrier airports normally have a primary runway length of 7,800 to 8,800 feet.
- Long-haul air carrier airports serve scheduled, nonstop, airline markets and routes of over 1,500 miles. Long-haul air carriers typically use wide-bodied jet aircraft weighing more than 300,000 pounds. In Wisconsin, long-haul air carrier airports normally have a primary runway length of 8,800 to 9,800 feet.

Transport/Corporate (T/C) airports are intended to serve corporate jets, small passenger and cargo jet aircraft used in regional service and small airplanes (piston or turboprop) used in commuter air service. These aircraft generally have a gross takeoff weight of less than 60,000 pounds, with approach speeds below 141 knots and wingspans of less than 118 feet. In Wisconsin, airports in this category normally have a primary runway length of greater than 4,500 feet.

General Utility (GU) airports are intended to serve virtually all small general aviation single and twin-engine aircraft, both piston and turboprop, with a maximum takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or less. These aircraft generally have approach speeds below 121 knots and wingspans of less than 79 feet. Typically, these aircraft are used for business and charter flying and for personal reasons. In Wisconsin, airports in this category normally have a primary runway length of 3,700 to 4,100 feet.

Basic Utility (BU) airports are intended to serve all small single-engine piston aircraft and many of the smaller twin-engine piston aircraft with a gross takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or less. These aircraft typically seat from two to six people and are commonly used for business and some charter flying as well as a wide variety of activities including recreational and sport flying, training, and crop dusting. In Wisconsin, airports in this category normally have a primary runway length of 2,700 to 3,000 feet.

- Basic Utility-B (BU-B) airports are designed to accommodate aircraft of less than 12,500 pounds gross weight, with approach speeds below 121 knots and wingspans of less than 49 feet. Such aircraft can be either single-engine or twin-engine piston.
- Basic Utility-A (BU-A) airports are designed to accommodate aircraft of less than 6,000 pounds gross weight, with approach speeds below 91 knots and wingspans of less than 49 feet. Such aircraft are typically single-engine piston.

The only difference between an airport classified as Transport/Corporate and an airport classified as Short-haul Carrier is the absence or presence of scheduled commercial passenger air service provided on a year-round basis. The aircraft used for transport/corporate purposes have virtually the same characteristics as those used for short-haul air carrier purposes.