Subject: New ATC Taxi Instructions

Area of Concern: Aircraft taxi and runway incursions

Distribution: All Aviation Activities

Discussion: New ATC Taxi and Ground Movement Operations will take effect June 30, 2010. The change will delete the current phraseology and procedure of issuing “taxi to” instructions when authorizing an aircraft to taxi to an assigned takeoff runway. This procedure allowed an aircraft to cross all runways/taxiways intersected by the taxi route, except for the assigned runway.

The change establishes the requirement that an explicit runway crossing clearance be issued for each runway (active/inactive or closed) crossing and requires an aircraft/vehicle to have crossed the previous runway before another crossing clearance may be issued. At airports where the taxi route between runway centerlines is less than 1000 feet apart, multiple runway crossings may be issued.

This change is one of several recommendations the FAA Runway Safety Call to Action Committee addressed to improve runway safety. The change will be made to the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM) and Aeronautical Information Publications (AIP). 14CFR Part 91.129(i) will be changed after the completion of the rulemaking period.

If you’re unsure of your taxi clearance or if the ground controller uses old terminology, ask for clarification before taxiing and don’t cross any runway without clearance from the tower.

For further information on this notice, go to http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications.