

NAV CANADA
151 Slater St. Ottawa, ON K1P 5H3
Email: vanessa.robertson@navcanada.ca

Nov 20, 2024

Subject: Communication concerning the reporting of Compacted Snow and Gravel Mix

To our valued customers,

When the Global Reporting Format (GRF) and Runway Surface Condition (RSC) NOTAMs were introduced in August 2021, the approved contaminants listed in CAR Standard 322.417 did not include the description “compacted snow and gravel mix”. As a result, the condition was also removed from the latest versions of the AMSCR forms which were effective October 2021. Confirmation that this change was intentional was received from Transport Canada in November 2023. Consequently, the NOTAM Entry System (NES) was updated for the winter 24/25 season to no longer include “compacted snow and gravel mix” as a selectable option in the runway surface conditions section.

Aerodrome Operators

Aerodrome operators are very important partners in keeping Canada's skies safe. The following practice ensures that the RSC NOTAMs are disseminated, and that safety-critical information reaches air operators. Otherwise, the NAV CANADA system cannot process the information which may result in flight cancellation or a safety event.

Procedure: Aerodrome operators who need to report “compacted snow and gravel mix” as a condition (particularly if such a condition is necessary for air operations), must enter “compacted snow” as the “runway surface description” and then must enter a “runway remark” stating “compacted snow and gravel mix”.

Aerodrome operators should ensure they are using the latest reporting forms from Transport Canada which can be found in Appendix C of Advisory Circular AC 300-005 ([link](#)). Finally,

aerodrome operators are encouraged to contact NAV CANADA customer service (service@navcanada.ca) to facilitate the creation of NES accounts for RSC reporting which can be used as a primary or backup service.

Air Operators

Air operators who require a statement in the RSC of “compacted snow and gravel mix” to complete their operation are encouraged to contact the applicable aerodrome operators and advise them of the following procedure:

To report “compacted snow and gravel mix” as a condition, “compacted snow” must be entered as the “runway surface description” and then enter a “runway remark” stating “compacted snow and gravel mix”.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Robertson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vanessa Robertson
Director, ATS Standards

NAV CANADA