

Air Traffic Control Surveillance Minimum Altitude Chart (ATCSMAC) Review Process

CAP 1374 – ATCSMAC Consultation



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Published by the Civil Aviation Authority, 2016

Civil Aviation Authority,
Aviation House,
Gatwick Airport South,
West Sussex,
RH6 0YR

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First published February 2016

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Background

This consultation relates to the review process associated with the Air Traffic Control Surveillance Minimum Altitude Charts (ATCSMACs) and the continued assessment of the Surveillance Minimum Altitude Areas (SMAAs) depicted on the chart.

The purpose of an SMAA is:

- a) To relieve **controllers** of the responsibility for determining the appropriate minimum safe levels in the vicinity of the aerodrome, while sequencing and separating arriving Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) flights so as to comply with the UK requirement that aircraft shall be vectored to join final approach at no less than 5 NM from touchdown
- b) To provide **pilots** with an indication of the minimum altitudes which ATC will allocate when vectoring an aircraft below the published Minimum Sector Altitude (MSA).

These SMAAs are based laterally as per the dimensions in [CAP 777](#) and vertically to safely clear all obstacles as per the ICAO requirement for vectoring IFR flights with Primary and/or Secondary Surveillance RADAR equipment.

The publication of the ATCSMAC for the UK Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) is an ICAO requirement - Annex 4 & Annex 15 refers.

The current process for the initial design and subsequent 5 year review of the ATCSMAC is detailed in [CAP 777](#), which will be updated accordingly following the consultation.

ATCSMAC - Typical Example

