

AVIATION ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

(selected aviation industry, manufacturer, specification, flight operations, maintenance and related acronyms)

A

AAC	airline administrative communications
AAL	above aerodrome level
AAPA	Association of Asia Pacific Airlines
ac	alternating current / aircraft
ACARS	aircraft communications addressing and reporting system
ACAS	airborne collision avoidance system
ACJ	Airbus Corporate Jetliner
ACMF	airplane condition monitoring function
ACMI	aircraft crew maintenance insurance (<i>form of lease</i>)
ACMP	ac-powered electric motor pump
ACMS	aeroplane/airplane condition monitoring system
ACN	aircraft classification number
ACP	audio control panel
ACT	additional centre tank
ACS	air conditioning system
ACU	air conditioning unit
AD	airworthiness directive
ADC	air data computer
ADF	automatic direction finding
ADG	air driven generator
ADI	attitude direction indicator
ADIRS	air data inertial reference system
ADIRU	air data inertial reference unit
ADF	automatic direction finder
ADM	air data module
ADS	air data system / automatic dependent surveillance
ADS-B	automatic dependent surveillance - broadcast
AEA	Association of European Airlines
AFCS	automatic flight control system
AFDC	autopilot flight director computer
AFDF	autopilot flight director function
AFDS	autopilot flight director system
AFIS	aerodrome flight information service
AFM	aeroplane (airplane) flight manual
AFMC	auxiliary fuel management computer
AFN	ATS facilities notification
AFS	automatic flight system
AFTN	aeronautical fixed telecommunications network
AGL	above ground level
AHTMS	aircraft health & trend monitoring system
AIC	aeronautical information circular
AIDS	aircraft integrated data system
AIP	aeronautical information publication
ALSCU	auxiliary level sensing control unit
AMI	aircraft maintenance insurance (<i>form of lease</i>)
AMOC	alternative method of compliance
AMP	aircraft maintenance programme
AMS	approved maintenance schedule
AMSL	above mean sea level
AMU	audio management unit
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AOA	ACARS over avionics / angle of attack
AOC	air operator certificate / airline operational communications / airline operational control
AOG	aircraft on ground
AP	autopilot
APA	aircraft purchase agreement
APHIS	animal & plant health inspection service (<i>USA department of agriculture port entry</i>)
APIS	advance passenger information system
APR	automatic power reserve
APS	auxiliary power system
APU	auxiliary power unit
ARINC	Aeronautical Radio, Inc.
ASCU	anti-skid control unit
ASDA	accelerate stop distance available
ASI	air speed indicator
ASK	available seat kilometres
ASM	available seat miles
ASML	above mean sea level
ASTM	American Society of Testing and Materials
ATA	Air Transport Association (<i>of America</i>)

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ATC	air traffic control
ATFM	air traffic flow management
ATI	air transport indicator
ATIMS	air traffic and information management system
ATN	aeronautical telecommunication network
ATP	airline transport pilot certificate (US) / approved technical procedure
ATPL	airline transport pilots license
ATR	Avions de Transport Regional
ATS	air traffic services
ATZ	aerodrome traffic zone

B

BBJ	Boeing Business Jet
BC	battery charger
BCA	Boeing Commercial Airplanes
BET	Boeing equivalent thrust
BFE	buyer-furnished equipment
BFL	balanced field length
BGAN	broadband global area network
BH	block hours
BITE	built-in test equipment
BOW	basic operating weight
BPCU	bus power control unit
BTMS	brake temperature monitoring system

C

CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CAME	continuing airworthiness management exposition
CAMO	continuing airworthiness management organisation
CAMP	computerised aircraft maintenance programme
CAS	crew alerting system / calibrated air speed
CAT	category
CB	circuit breaker
cc	cubic centimetres
CCD	cursor control device
CCR	common computing resource
CCS	common core system
CDL	configuration deviation list
CDN	common data network
CDSS	cockpit door surveillance system
CDU	control display unit
CFDIU	centralised fault data interface unit
CFDS	centralised fault data system
CFMI	CFM International
CFRP	carbon fibre reinforced plastic
CG	centre of gravity
CIDS	cabin intercommunication data system
CIS	crew information system
CL	cabin lighting
CMC	central management computer
CMCS	central maintenance computing system
CMS	central maintenance system
CMU	communications management unit
CMP	computerised maintenance programme
CofA	certificate of airworthiness
CofR	certificate of registration
CPCS	cabin pressure control system
CPDLC	controller/pilot data link communication
CPL	commercial pilots licence
CRJ	Canadair regional jet
CRM	crew resource management
CRS	certificate of release to service
CRT	cathode ray tube
CS	certification specification
CSE	customer-selected equipment
CSM/G	constant speed motor/generator
CSN	cycles since new
CSS	cabin services system
CVR	cockpit voice recorder
CWS	central warning system

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D

DA	decision altitude
DAR	(US FAA) designated airworthiness representative / digital AIDS recorder
D-ATIS	digital automatic terminal information service
dc	direct current
DCA	department of civil aviation
DCDU	datalink control and display unit
DCU	data concentrator unit
DDG	dispatch deviation guide
DDRMI	digital distance and radio magnetic indicator
DER	(US FAA) designated engineering representative
DEU	decoder/encoder unit
DFDR	digital flight data recorder
DFLD	database field loadable data
DGAC	Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile (France)
DGCA	Director General of Civil Aviation
DH	decision height
DLMU	data loading LAN management unit
DMC	display management computer
DME	distance measuring equipment
DMU	data management unit
DOC	direct operating costs
DOT	(US) Department of Transportation
DU	display unit
DWE	delivered weight empty

E

E	electric/electronic
EAA	European Airline Association
EAS	equivalent air speed
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
EBAA	European Business Aircraft Association
EBU	engine build-up unit
ECA	export credit agency
ECAM	electronic centralised aircraft monitoring
ECB	electronic control box
ECU	electronic control unit
ECS	environmental control system
ECU	electronic control unit
EDP	engine-driven pump
EEC	electronic engine control
EETC	enhanced equipment trust certificate
EFB	electronic flight bag
EFIS	electronic flight instrumentation system
EGPWS	enhanced ground proximity warning system
EGT	exhaust gas temperature
EICAS	engine indication and crew alerting system
EIS	entry into service / electronic instrument system
EIU	engine interface unit
ELAC	elevator and aileron computer
ELT	emergency locator transmitter
EMP	electric motor pump
EOL	end of lease
EP	external power
EPR	engine pressure ratio
ER	extended range
ERG	economic regulation group
ERJ	Embraer regional jet
EROPS	extended range operations
ESN	engine serial number
ETA	estimated time of arrival
ETCA	engine total care agreement
ETD	estimated time of departure
ETOPS	extended-range twin-engine operations
EU	European Union
EU-ETS	EU Emissions Trading Scheme
EVS	enhanced vision system
EWD	engine warning display

F

F/A	flight attendant
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration (of the United States)

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FAC	flight augmentation computer
FADEC	full authority digital engine control
FAL	final assembly line
FANS	future air navigation system
FAR	Federal Aviation Regulations (<i>of the United States FAA</i>)
FBO	fixed base operator
FBW	fly-by-wire
FCAC	forward cargo air-conditioning
FCC	flight control computer
FCE	flight control electronics
FCU	flight control unit
FD	flight director
FDAU	flight data acquisition unit
FDIMU	flight data interface and management unit
FDIU	flight data interface unit
FDPS	flight data processing system
FDR	flight data recorder
FF	fuel flow
FC	flight cycles
FH	flight hours
FIR	flight information region
FIS	flight information services
FL	flight level
FLS	field loadable software
FLXTO	flexible take-off
FMCF	flight management computing function
FMCS	flight management computing system
FMGC	flight management & guidance computer
FMGS	flight management & guidance system
FMS	flight management system
FOCA	Federal Office of Civil Aviation (<i>of Switzerland</i>)
FOI	Flight Operations Inspector
FOM	flight operations manual
FOQA	flight operations quality assurance
FQIS	fuel quantity-indicating system
FPA	flight path angle
FSB	fasten seat belt
FTE	fixed trailing edge
FTK	freight tonne kilometres
FTM	freight tonne miles
FTV	flight test vehicle
FWC	flight warning computer

G

g	acceleration due to Earth's gravity
GA	go-around / general aviation
GAMA	General Aviation Manufacturers Association
GCU	generator control unit
GE	General Electric
GLS	GPS landing system
GNSS	global navigation satellite system
GPCU	ground power control unit
GPS	global positioning system
GPU	ground power unit
GPWS	ground proximity warning system
G/S	glideslope
GSE	ground support equipment
GTF	geared turbofan

H

HD	high definition
HDD	head-down display
HEPA	high-efficiency particulate air
HF	high frequency
HFDR	high frequency data radio
HGW	high gross weight
HMV	heavy maintenance visit
HP	high pressure
HPT	high pressure turbine
HSI	hot section inspection
HUD	head-up display
HUMS	health & usage monitoring system

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I

IAE	International Aero Engines
IAP	instrument approach plate
IAS	indicated airspeed
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBAC	International Business Aviation Council
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICO	interior colour offering
ICS	inter-communication system
IDERA	irrevocable deregistration & export request authorisation
IDG	integrated drive generator
IDOC	indirect operating costs
IFE	in-flight entertainment
IFR	instrument flight rules
IFSD	in-flight shut down
IGW	increased gross weight
ILS	instrument landing system
IMC	instrument meteorological conditions
INOP	inoperative
IOSA	IATA operational safety audit
IP	intermediate pressure
IPC	illustrated parts catalogue
IR	instrument rating
IRCM	infrared countermeasures
IRS	inertial reference system
IRU	inertial reference unit
ISA	international standard atmosphere
IS-BAO	international standards for business aircraft operations
IS-BAH	international standards for business aircraft handling
ISIS	integrated standby instrument system
ISS	integrated surveillance system

J

JAA	Joint Aviation Authorities (<i>of Europe</i>) (<i>replaced by EU/EASA</i>)
JAR	Joint Aviation Regulations (<i>of JAA</i>) (<i>replaced by EU/EASA</i>)
JCAB	Japanese Civil Aviation Bureau
JOL	Japanese operating lease

K

KCAS	knots calibrated airspeed
Kg	kilogram(s)
KIAS	knots indicated airspeed
km	kilometre(s)
kt / knots	nautical miles per hour
KTAS	knots true airspeed

L

LA	linear accelerometer
lb	pound weight
LCC	low cost carrier
LCD	liquid crystal display
LDA	landing distance available
LED	light-emitting diode
LLP	life limited parts
LN	line number
LOI	letter of intent
LOPA	layout passenger accommodation
LP	low pressure
LPC	licence proficiency check
LPT	low pressure turbine
LPV	localizer performance with vertical guidance
LR	long range
LRC	long range cruise
LRNS	long range navigation system
LRU	line-replaceable unit
LUMP	low utilisation maintenance programme

M

m	meter(s)
M	Mach number
MAC	mean aerodynamic chord
MAU	modular avionics unit

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MC	monitor and control
MCAI	mandatory continuing airworthiness information
MCDU	multipurpose control & display unit
MCF	monitor and control function
MCM	maintenance control manual
MCPH	maintenance cost per hour (e.g. GE engine support agreement)
MCT	maximum continuous thrust
MCU	modular concept unit
MDA	minimum descent altitude
MDC	maintenance diagnostic computer
MDS	maintenance diagnostic system
MEBA	Middle East Business Aircraft Association
MEL	minimum equipment list
METAR	timed aerodrome meteorological report
MEW	manufacturer's empty weight
MFD	multifunction display
MLG	main landing gear
MLS	microwave landing system
MLW	maximum landing weight
MME	maintenance management exposition
MMEL	master minimum equipment list
MMO	maximum operating speed (Mach number)
MMR	multi-mode receiver
MNPS	minimum navigation performance specifications
MNT	mach number technique
MOE	maintenance organisation exposition
MPD	maintenance planning document
MPI	major periodic inspection
MRO	maintenance & repair organisation
MRW	maximum ramp weight
MS	military specification / maintenance schedule
MSC	maximum speed cruise
MSCN	manufacturer's specification change notice (Airbus)
MSL	mean sea level
MSN	manufacturer's serial number
MSP	maintenance service programme (Honeywell)
MTBF	mean time between failure
MTOW	maximum takeoff weight
MTW	maximum taxi weight
MTWA	maximum takeoff weight authorised
MWE	manufacturer's weight empty
MX	maintenance
MZFW	maximum zero fuel weight

N

N1	high pressure turbine speed
N2	fan speed
N3	compressor speed
NAA	national aviation authority
NBAA	National Business Aviation Association (of America)
NDB	non-directional beacon
ND	navigation display
NEO	new engine option (Airbus)
NG	new generation
NLG	nose landing gear
NM	nautical mile
NOTAM	notice to airmen
NPRM	notice of proposed rulemaking
NVM	non-volatile memory
NWS	nose wheel steering

O

OAMP	operator's aeroplane maintenance programme
OAT	outside air temperature
OBDL	on-board data loader
OCMF	onboard configuration management function
O&D	originating & destinating
ODLF	onboard data load function
OEB	operation engineering bulletin
OEM	original equipment manufacturer
OEW	operating empty weight (see OWE)
OHMF	onboard health management function

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OHPTS	overhead panel touch screen
OL	operating lease
OPC	operator proficiency check
OTAC	UK Overseas Territories aviation circular
OTARs	UK Overseas Territories aviation requirements
OWE	operating weight empty (see OEW)

P

PA	purchase agreement / passenger address
PAS	passenger address system
PAX	passenger
PBE	protective breathing equipment
PBTH	power by the hour
PC	personal computer
PCN	pavement classification number
PCU	power control unit
PDP	pre-delivery payment / power distribution panel
PDU	power drive unit
PF	pilot flying
PFCF	primary flight control function
PFD	primary flight display
PIC	pilot in command
PMA	parts manufacturer approval (<i>non OEM parts</i>)
PMG	permanent magnet generators
PNF	pilot not flying
PPI	pre-purchase inspection
PPL	private pilot's license
PSEU	proximity sensor electronic unit
PSIU	passenger service information unit
PSS	passenger service system
PSU	passenger service unit
PTU	power transfer unit
PW	Pratt & Whitney
PWC	Pratt & Whitney Canada
PWS	predictive windshear

Q

QA/D	quick attach/detach
QAR	quick access recorder
QEC	quick engine change
QFE	barometric altitude at airfield elevation
QNH	corrected barometric altitude (relative to sea level)
QRH	quick reference handbook

R

RA	radio altimeter / ACAS resolution advisory
RAAS	runway awareness advisory system
RAT	ram air turbine
RDC	remote data concentrator
RDPU	remote power distribution unit
RJ	regional jet
RMI	radio magnetic indicator
RMP	radio management panel
RNP	required navigation performance
RPCU	residual pressure control unit
RPK	revenue passenger kilometres
RPL	repetitive flight plan
RPM	revenue passenger miles
RR	Rolls-Royce
RRCC	Rolls-Royce Corporate Care
RTOW	regulated take-off weight
RTU	radio tuning unit
RVG	residual value guarantee
RVR	runway visual range
RVSM	reduced vertical separation minima

S

SARP	standard and recommended practices
SATCOM	satellite communication
SB	service bulletin
SCN	specification change notice (Airbus)
SD	system display

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SDAC	system data acquisition concentrator
SEC	spoiler & elevator computer
SELCAL	selective calling system
SENEL	single event noise exposure level
SEP	safety & emergency procedures
SFC	specific fuel consumption
SFD	standby flight display
SFE	seller-furnished equipment
SID	standard instrument departure route
SIL	speech interference level
SL	sea level
SLB	sale & leaseback
SMOH	since major overhaul
SSV	since shop visit
SMS	safety management system
SN	serial number
SOPs	standard operating procedures
SPL	sound pressure level
SPA	special pro-rate agreement
SRM	structural repair manual
SRS	speed reference system
SSPC	solid-state power controller
SSV	since shop visit
STAR	standard terminal arrival route
STC	supplemental type certificate
STCU	standby control unit
STD	synthetic training device
STOL	short take-off & landing
SVS	synthetic vision system
T	
TA	traffic advisory
TAC	thrust asymmetry compensation
TAF	terminal aerodrome forecast
TAS	true air speed
TAWS	terrain awareness and warning system
TC	type certificate / Transport Canada
TCA	total care agreement (<i>e.g. Rolls-Royce engine support agreement</i>)
TCAS	traffic alert and collision avoidance system
TCSN	total cycles since new
TCO	third country operator
TES	total engine support
TEW	true empty weight
TGT	turbine gas temperature
3GCN	third-generation cabin network
TMA	terminal control area
T/O	take-off
TOC	top of climb
TOD	top of descent
TODA	take-off distance available
TORA	take-off run available
TPIS	tyre pressure information system
TR	thrust reverser / transformer rectifier
TRU	transformer rectifier unit
TSA	Transportation Security Administration (<i>USA</i>)
TSC	touch screen controller
TSN	time since new
TSOH	time since overhaul
TSSV	time since shop visit
TSP	tail strike protection
TTSN	total time since new
U	
ULD	unitary load device (<i>baggage/cargo container</i>)
UMS	user-modifiable software
U/S	unserviceable
USG / US gal	United States Gallon
USPHS	United States Public Health Service
UTC	coordinated universal time (GMT)

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V

V	volt
VDL	VHF data link
VDR	VHF data radio
VFR	visual flight rules
VHF	very high frequency
VLJ	very light jet
VOR	VHF omni-directional range
VPN	virtual private network
VSD	vertical situation display
VSI	vertical speed indication
VTOL	vertical take-off & landing

V Speeds

V1	take-off decision speed
V2	take-off safety speed
VLE	maximum speed for extended landing gear
VLO	maximum speed for landing gear operation
VMO	maximum operating airspeed
VNE	never exceed airspeed
Vr	rotation speed
Vref	approach airspeed

W

W	watt / winglet-equipped
WAAS	wide area augmentation system
WAT	weight altitude temperature (limitation)
WFU	withdrawn from use
WGS	world geodetic system
WL	winglet
WOW	weight on wheels
WPT	waypoint
WXR	weather radar

X

XLR	extra long range
XP	extra performance
XR	extra range
XWB	extra-wide body (Airbus A350)

Z

Z	zulu time (=GMT, UTC)
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E&OE.