



T-SAP Safe Discussion



December 2025

Navigating the AOA: Communication & Beacon Requirements

The Technical Operations Safety Action Program (T-SAP) has received multiple reports highlighting concerns about vehicles lacking the necessary equipment in the Air Operations Area (AOA). Regulations clearly define the minimum equipment standards required for vehicles operating in the AOA, and any vehicle that fails to meet these standards is considered non-compliant. It is also crucial to be informed of and understand the specific requirements of your local airport. If you are uncertain whether a vehicle is properly equipped, please consult with your manager to determine the appropriate next steps.

The Importance of Following Requirements

Adhering to these requirements is not just a bureaucratic formality; it is essential for maintaining a safe and efficient airport environment. Non-compliance can have serious consequences, including:

- Aircraft incidents or accidents
- Personnel injury or fatality
- Damage to aircraft and equipment
- Operational delays and financial repercussions
- Loss of airport certification

By following all regulations, we ensure the safety and efficiency of our operations.

Operating a vehicle in the AOA is a privilege accompanied by substantial responsibility. Each driver is an essential link in the chain of airport safety. By understanding and diligently adhering to all AOA driving requirements, we collectively help prevent accidents and protect lives. Let us all commit to ensure that every AOA vehicle operation is conducted safely.

T-SAP REPORT EXCERPT

“ Recently we had at least two separate incidents reported... We cannot wait until an accident or runway incursion happens to react...”

DISCUSSION

-  What specific features and standards define 'properly equipped' two-way communication for vehicles at your location?
-  What criteria define an acceptable amber beacon for our fleet in terms of type, visibility, and placement? Additionally, how can we effectively demonstrate compliance with these standards?
-  What practical strategies can be employed when faced with a time-sensitive mission where there is uncertainty about equipment suitability?

Have an aviation safety concern? t-sap.org

By filing a T-SAP report, you contribute to the identification of safety trends and issues within the NAS.