



Washington DC SFRA Special Terms & Procedures

Procedures for Traffic Pattern Work:

Towered Airport: Request pattern work from tower; squawk 1234, remain in two-way communication with tower. If tower is closed, see below.

Non-Towered Airport: File DC SFRA flight plan; obtain and squawk discrete transponder code, communicate pattern position via published CTAF, and have ability to monitor VHF guard on 121.5 or UHF guard on 243.0 Upon terminating pattern operations, call ATC via telephone at 540-351-6129 to close flight plan.

ATC Terms Specific to the DC SFRA:

Security services: Identification, communications and security tracking provided by an ATC facility in support of DOD, or other security elements. *NOTE: Security services do not include basic radar services or any other ATC services.*

Transponder observed: Used to inform a pilot that the aircraft's assigned beacon code and position has been observed. This transmission does *not* imply ATC services. It conveys only that the transponder reply has been observed and its position correlated for movement through security airspace.

Remain on the code until you land: Used when Potomac hands an inbound VFR flight off to the tower or authorizes change to advisory frequency for non-towered airports. It reminds pilots to remain on the assigned discrete transponder code until after landing. *NEVER squawk 1200 inside the DC SFRA.*

Emergency Procedures:

Transponder failure: An aircraft unable to transmit the ATC-assigned transponder code must contact ATC and comply with all instructions. If unable to contact ATC, the aircraft must exit the DC SFRA by the most direct lateral route.

Communications failure: Squawk 7600 and exit SFRA via most direct route or, if closer to departure point than SFRA boundary, return to departure point.

Intercepts: Review interception procedures in the AIM. If you are intercepted, follow all instructions given by the intercepting aircraft. Monitor 121.5, provide call sign / position, and squawk 7700 unless otherwise directed.

Potomac TRACON Telephone Numbers

Area Name	Nearest major airport)	Telephone
Shenandoah	Dulles (IAD)	1-866-709-4993 1-540-349-4097
Mount Vernon	Reagan National (DCA) Andrews AFB (ADW)	1-866-599-3874 1-540-349-0493
Chesapeake	Baltimore (BWI)	1-866-429-5882 1-540-349-8478
James River	Richmond (RIC) Charlottesville (CHO)	1-866-640-4124 1-540-349-9697



Washington DC SFRA Standard Requirements

Requirements to operate to/from, or within the DC SFRA

- Two-way radio
- Operating transponder with altitude reporting (Mode C)
- Flight plan appropriate to intended operation:
 - IFR: IFR flight plan
 - VFR: DC SFRA flight plan for all operations, *except:*
 - JYO ingress/egress on 1226 (*no flight plan required*)
 - Fringe airport egress (*no flight plan required*)
 - Towered airport pattern work (*make request to tower*)
- Discrete transponder code for all operations, *except:*
 - Leesburg (JYO) ingress or egress (1226)
 - Fringe airport egress (1205)
 - Towered airport pattern work (1234)
- VFR speed restriction (≤ 180 KIAS in DC SFRA, & ≤ 230 KIAS from 30 NM - 60 NM from DCA VOR/DME unless otherwise authorized.)
- Communication with ATC for all operations, *except:*
 - Leesburg (JYO) ingress/egress: make CTAF calls
 - Fringe airport egress: monitor guard if able
 - Towered airport pattern work: talk to tower
 - Non-towered airport pattern work:
 - Make CTAF calls & monitor 121.5 if able

Activating: A DC SFRA flight plan to enter/exit the DC SFRA VFR is activated when the pilot obtains a discrete transponder code *except:*

- Towered airport pattern: with squawk & talk
- Non-towered airport pattern: with CTAF calls

Closing: The DC SFRA flight plan closes when the aircraft exits or lands at an airport inside the DC SFRA. For pattern operations at non-towered airports or when tower is not open, close by calling ATC on landing at 540-351-6129.

Washington DC SFRA VFR Outbound Procedures*

Washington DC SFRA VFR Inbound Procedures*

Step 1: Preflight—File a DC SFRA Flight Plan

- ALWAYS review NOTAMs for current TFR information.
- File DC SFRA flight plan.
“I would like to file a DC SFRA flight plan for VFR flight from (departure airport) to (appropriate exit gate)”
- If desired, file separate VFR flight plan (search-and-rescue) to be activated after exiting the DC SFRA.

Step 2: Pre-Takeoff — Activate DC SFRA Flight Plan

- Call ATC (tower, RCO, phone) for frequency & squawk.
“Potomac Clearance, (call sign) at Tipton, VFR departure.”
- Set assigned frequency & transponder code.
- Verify that Mode C (ALT) is on.

Step 3: After Takeoff—Communicate w/ ATC

- Establish radio contact with Potomac TRACON.
“Potomac Departure, (call sign), off Tipton”
- Monitor assigned frequency
- Remain out of Class B unless explicitly cleared to enter.

Step 4: Exiting—Close DC SFRA Flight Plan

- Remain on frequency/squawk until ATC authorizes change; DC SFRA flight plan closes upon exiting the DC SFRA.

Step 1: Preflight—File a DC SFRA Flight Plan

- ALWAYS review NOTAMs for current TFR information.
- File DC SFRA flight.
“I would like to file a DC SFRA flight plan for VFR flight from (appropriate entry gate) to (destination airport).”

Step 2: Before Entry - Activate DC SFRA Flight Plan

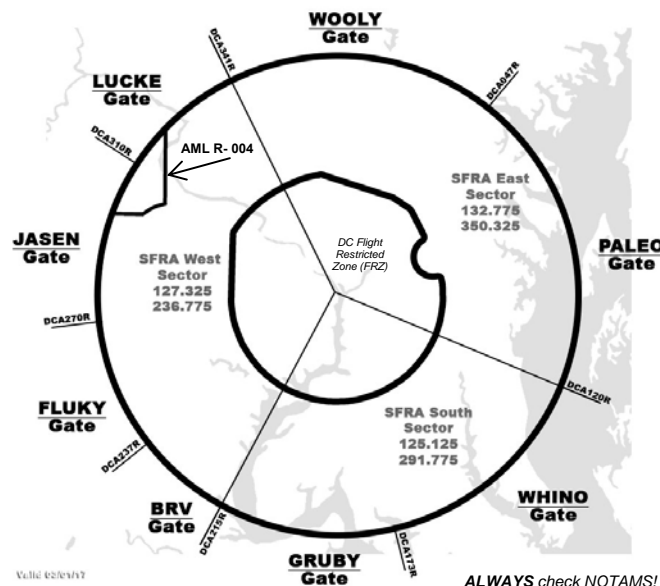
- Before entry, call Potomac to request transponder code.
“Potomac Approach, (call sign), VFR inbound to Gaithersburg.”
- Set assigned code and verify that Mode C (ALT) is on.
- Continue inbound unless otherwise instructed.
- Remain out of Class B unless explicitly cleared to enter.

Step 3: After Entry—Communicate w/ ATC

- Monitor Potomac TRACON.
- Remain out of Class B airspace unless explicitly cleared to enter.

Step 4: Arriving—Close DC SFRA Flight Plan

- Change to tower / advisory frequency when so instructed .
- Remain on assigned transponder code until you land.
- DC SFRA flight plan closes upon landing.



Entry/Exit Filing Gates for DC SFRA Flight Plans

Gate (Freq)	Defining Radials (DCA)		Visual Checkpoints	
WOOLY (132.775)	R-341	R-046	I-270	I-95
PALEO (132.775)	R-047	R-119	I-95	Abeam Chesapeake Beach
WHINO (125.125)	R-120	R-172	Abeam Chesapeake Beach	Northern boundary Wicomico River
GRUBY (125.125)	R-173	R-214	Northern boundary Wicomico River	Western boundary Potomac River / Widewater Beach
BRV (127.325)	R-215	R-236	Western boundary Potomac River / Widewater Beach	West side of Lunga Reservoir
FLUKY (127.325)	R-237	R-269	West side of Lunga Reservoir	VA Route 29
JASEN (127.325)	R-270	R-309	VA Route 29	VA Route 7
LUCKE (127.325)	R-310	R-340	VA Route 7	I-270

*See page 1 for JYO ingress/egress & fringe airport egress procedures.
For detailed information, see online DC SFRA course at www.faasafety.gov