



# ON TRACK



## Articles of Interest for the Professional Aviator

ICP Flight - Central Flying School

### The ICP Flight's "take" on Take-Off Visibility Requirements.

Captain Spike Kavalench

So you're holding short of the active runway and the weather is doggy bags. Now let's say you don't have a take-off alternate today so you need to have a 200 foot ceiling and a half mile visibility, because that's the required published ceiling and visibility for the approach should you need to return to land. Looking outside you can see at least 13 runway lights (and I don't mean 7 on the left side and 6 on the right) so it sure looks like a half -mile visibility to you. The tower, however, is reporting 200 feet and an eighth of a mile in mist.

Can you take-off?

B-GA-100 Chapter 8 para 24 is quite clear in stating that either ground visibility or RVR govern take-off, decision making. Friends, by definition, ground visibility is that reported by an ATC unit, an FSS, a community aerodrome radio station, an AWOS, or a ground based radio station operated by an air operator. Are you or your co-pilot any one of those? Didn't think so.

1CAD orders Vol 2, 2-006 also refers to ground visibility or RVR for take-off weather criteria. This order states that the definition for ground visibility in GPH 204 applies, which is in fact the exact same as the B-GA-100 definition. Fascinating coincidence, I'm sure you'll agree.

On the civilian side of the fence, CAR 602.126 and AIP RAC 9.19.1 state that **in the absence of** a reported RVR or reported ground visibility, pilot in command observed visibility may be used to authorize take-off.

In summary, CF pilots may not use their own observed visibility to authorize take-off except, uncontrolled airport operations where **only** the Aircraft Captain's observed visibility is available, in which case it may be used. The practice of having a pilot's observed visibility override a reported ground visibility is not approved and is therefore not a recommended technique to be attempted.