

ADVISORY CIRCULAR

SUBJECT	DATE	AC NUMBER	VERSION
AERONAUTICAL SURVEY REQUIREMENTS	30 June 2025	AC 175.03	2.0

NOTE: THIS ADVISORY CIRCULAR IS PUBLISHED TO DESCRIBE ACCEPTABLE MEANS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL AUTHORITY OF CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS (GACAR).

GACAR PART 175 AIS & AERONAUTICAL CHARTS

AERONAUTICAL SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

1. Purpose.

This Advisory Circular (AC) contains guidance and information for Aerodrome/Heliport Operators, Aeronautical Surveyors and Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) regarding aerodrome/heliport and obstacle survey requirements.

Aeronautical Surveyors are engaged in the aeronautical data chain as an integral part of Aeronautical Information Management (AIM); therefore, the integrity of aeronautical data must be maintained throughout all the process from the point at which the need for a survey is identified to the point when it is available in accordance with the GACA Regulations (GACAR) and ICAO requirements.

It is essential that data provided by the Aeronautical Surveyors be at the required level of quality.

2. Applicability.

This AC contains guidance and information for Aerodrome/Heliport Operators and Aeronautical Surveyors regarding aerodrome/heliport and obstacle survey requirements based on the following provisions of GACAR Part 175 and Part 139:

- (a) GACAR Part 175, § 175.115 (c): Surveyors and providers of electronic terrain and obstacle data for Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 must be accepted by the President.
- (b) GACAR Part 139, § 139.425: The aerodrome operator will apply the aerodrome survey requirements as per AC 175-03.

This AC is applicable to any aeronautical surveyor.

3. Cancellation.

This AC cancels and supersedes AC 175.03 version 1.0 dated 11 November 2021 and must remain in force until cancelled, suspended or amended.

4. Related Regulatory Provisions.

This AC should be read in the context of the following provisions:

- (a) GACAR Part 175 - Aeronautical Information Services & Aeronautical Charts.
- (b) eBook Volume 8 - Air Navigation Services - Certification & Administration – Chapter 3 - Section 3, Terrain and Obstacle Data Management.

5. Related Reading Material.

None.

6. Definition of terms used in this AC.

This AC does not introduce any new definitions.

7. Approval.

This AC has been approved for publication by the Executive Vice President of Aviation Safety and Environmental Sustainability Sector of the GACA.

8. Guidance.

Guidance and information regarding aerodrome/heliport and obstacle survey requirements as well as acceptance of Aeronautical Surveyors are available in eBook Volume 8, Chapter 3, Section 3, which is applicable to all Aeronautical Surveyors and all operators of Certificated Aerodromes/Heliports. It also establishes the requirements to be met for conducting the following surveying activities:

- (a) Obstacle Limitation Surfaces Surveys.
- (b) Electronic Terrain and Obstacle Data (eTOD) Surveys.
- (c) Aerodrome/Heliport Plan Surveys.
- (d) Aerodrome Obstacles Chart Type A Surveys.
- (e) Precision Approach Terrain Chart Surveys.
- (f) Visual Approach chart Surveys, and
- (g) Any other type of survey required in the aviation industry within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

It also provides the following information:

- (a) Survey requirements
- (b) Survey procedures
- (c) Deliverable Presentation
- (d) Quality Assurance
- (e) Application for Aeronautical Surveyor acceptance form
- (f) Survey declaration form
- (g) Digital data specifications
- (h) eTOD database specification
- (i) eTOD area 1 specification

The eBook Volume 8, Chapter 3, Section 3 is accessible on GACA website (www.gaca.gov.sa).

The term “Aeronautical Surveyors” should be read as “Aerodrome/Heliport Surveyors and providers of electronic terrain and obstacle data (eTOD) for Areas 1, 2, 3, 4; obstacle and terrain data sets; obstacle and terrain in Take-off Flight Path Area and penetration of aerodrome/heliport Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS)”.

Aeronautical Surveyors must apply for acceptance in the form and manner established by the President and listed in the eBook Volume 8, Chapter 3, Section 3.

9. Application for acceptance as Aeronautical Surveyor.

Applicants must submit a formal request for acceptance to the President through the project holder by using the application form in Appendix A of eBook Volume 8, Chapter 3, Section 3 through GACA’s E-Services portal (www.gaca.gov.sa) and must provide the necessary documentation as required.

10. Acceptance of Application.

If the President accepts the appointment of Aeronautical Surveyors, the applicant will be advised in writing and will be issued a notice of acceptance of appointment through the project holder.

The acceptance is not transferable and is valid only for a specific project.

11. Rejection of Application.

The President will notify the applicant in writing through the project holder if an appointment is not accepted. The notification letter will state the qualification, experience, or knowledge areas that have been assessed as unsatisfactory.

An unsuccessful applicant may re-apply if additional evidence can be provided to rectify any deficiency in the original application.