ENR 1.3 INSTRUMENT FLIGHT RULES

1. Rules applicable to all IFR flights

1.1 Aircraft equipment

Aircraft shall be equipped with suitable instruments and with navigation equipment appropriate to the route to be flown.

1.2 Minimum levels

Except when necessary for take off or landing or except when specifically authorised by the appropriate authority an IFR flight shall be flown at a level that is not below the minimum flight altitude established by the STATE whose territory is overflown, or when no such minimum flight altitude has been established:

- a) over high terrain or in mountainous areas, at which is at least 2 000 ft (600 m) above the highest obstacle located within 5 nautical miles (8 Km) of estimated position of the aircraft;
- b) elsewhere, at a level which is at least 1,000 ft (300 m) above the highest obstacle located within 5 nautical miles (8 Km) of the estimated position of the aircraft.

1.3 Change from IFR flight to VFR flight

- 1.3.1 An aircraft electing to change the conduct of its flight from compliance with the instrument flight rules to compliance with the visual flight rules shall, if a flight plan was submitted, notify the appropriate air traffic services unit specifically that the IFR flight is cancelled and communicate thereto the changes to be made to its current flight plan.
- 1.3.2 When an aircraft operating under the instrument flight rules is flown in or encounters visual meteorological conditions, it shall not cancel its IFR flight unless it is anticipated, and intended, that the flight will be continued for a reasonable period of time in uninterrupted visual meteorological conditions.

2. Rules applicable to IFR flights outside controlled airspace

2.1 Cruising levels

IFR flight operating in level cruising flight outside of controlled airspace shall be flown at a cruising level appropriate to its track as specified in table below 1.4.1.

2.2 Position reports

An IFR flight operating outside controlled airspace and required by the appropriate ATS authority to:

- a) Submit a flight plan,
- b) Maintain an air-ground voice communication watch on the appropriate communication channel and establish two-way communication as necessary, with the air traffic services unit providing information service.

Shall report position as specified in BANRs 2021 Section 8, clause 8.21 for controlled flight

2.3 Communications

An IFR flight operating outside controlled airspace but within or into areas, or along routes, designated by appropriate ATS authority and in accordance with BANRs section 8, para 8.13.2 c) or d), shall maintain air-ground voice communication watch on the appropriate communication channel and establish two-way communication, as necessary, with the air traffic services unit providing flight information service.

			Magneti	c Track			
From 000 degrees to 179 degrees				From 180 degrees to 359 degrees			
IFR Flights		VFR Flights		IFR Flights		VFR Flights	
FL	Feet	FL	Feet	FL	Feet	FL	Feet
N/A *	N/A *	N/A *	N/A **	N/A *	N/A **	N/A *	N/A **
	11 000		11 500		12 000		12 500
	13 000		13 500		14 000		14 500
	15 000		15 500		16 000		16 500
	17 000		17 500		18 000		-
190	N/A (3)	195	N/A (3)	200	N/A (3)	205	N/A (3)
210		215		220		225	
230		235		240		245	
250		255		260		265	
270		275		280		285	
290		N/A (4)		310		N/A (4)	
220				250			
330				350			
370				390			
410				430			
etc				etc			
etc				etc			Table 1.4.1

Notes:

Transition Altitude in Bhutan is 18 000 ft. Flight levels not authorised below this height. *

** Terrain in Bhutan precludes allocation of cruising levels below 11 000 ft.

(3) (4) Transition Altitude in Bhutan is 18 000 ft. Altitudes not authorised above this height.

VFR flights in Bhutan not authorised above FL 290.