



# CONTROLLER AIRCRAFT RECOGNITION GUIDE



COMMON AIRCRAFT YOU WILL SEE IN THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM



## COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Boeing 737-800</p> <p>ICAO Code: B738</p> <p>Category: Commercial</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 31,000 – 39,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>LARGE</b></p> |  <p>Airbus A320-200</p> <p>ICAO Code: A320</p> <p>Category: Commercial</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 29,000 – 37,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>LARGE</b></p> |  <p>Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner</p> <p>ICAO Code: B789</p> <p>Category: Commercial</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 35,000 – 43,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>Boeing 777-300ER</p> <p>ICAO Code: B77W</p> <p>Category: Commercial</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 33,000 – 43,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>Airbus A350-900</p> <p>ICAO Code: A359</p> <p>Category: Commercial</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 33,000 – 42,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>Airbus A380-800</p> <p>ICAO Code: A388</p> <p>Category: Commercial</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 34,000 – 42,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SUPER</b></p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

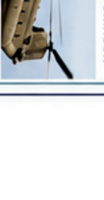


## REGIONAL AIRCRAFT

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Embraer E175</p> <p>ICAO Code: E175</p> <p>Category: Regional Jet</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 21,000 – 31,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>LARGE</b></p> |  <p>Embraer E190</p> <p>ICAO Code: E190</p> <p>Category: Regional Jet</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 25,000 – 34,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>LARGE</b></p> |  <p>Bombardier CRJ700</p> <p>ICAO Code: CRJ7</p> <p>Category: Regional Jet</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 23,000 – 31,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>LARGE</b></p> |  <p>ATR 72-600</p> <p>ICAO Code: A766</p> <p>Category: Regional Turboprop</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 17,000 – 35,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>Cessna 172 Skyhawk</p> <p>ICAO Code: C172</p> <p>Category: General Aviation</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 4,500 – 8,500 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>Piper PA-28 Archer</p> <p>ICAO Code: P28A</p> <p>Category: General Aviation</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 6,000 – 10,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>Cirrus SR22</p> <p>ICAO Code: SR22</p> <p>Category: General Aviation</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 17,000 – 25,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>Beechcraft King Air 350</p> <p>ICAO Code: B350</p> <p>Category: General Aviation</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 20,000 – 25,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



## CARGO AIRCRAFT

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Boeing 747-8F</p> <p>ICAO Code: B748</p> <p>Category: Cargo</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 30,000 – 38,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>Boeing 767-300F</p> <p>ICAO Code: B763</p> <p>Category: Cargo</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 28,000 – 36,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>Airbus A330-200F</p> <p>ICAO Code: A332</p> <p>Category: Cargo</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 30,000 – 38,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>Cessna Caravan (C208)</p> <p>ICAO Code: C208</p> <p>Category: Cargo / Utility</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 10,000 – 18,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>C-130 Hercules</p> <p>ICAO Code: C130</p> <p>Category: Military</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 10,000 – 25,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>KC-135 Stratotanker</p> <p>ICAO Code: K35R</p> <p>Category: Military</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 25,000 – 35,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>F-16 Fighting Falcon</p> <p>ICAO Code: F16</p> <p>Category: Military</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 10,000 – 50,000 ft+</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>C-17 Globemaster III</p> <p>ICAO Code: C17</p> <p>Category: Military</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 10,000 – 50,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>HEAVY</b></p> |  <p>Bell 407</p> <p>ICAO Code: B407</p> <p>Category: Helicopter</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 1,500 – 7,500 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>Robinson R44</p> <p>ICAO Code: R44</p> <p>Category: Helicopter</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 1,500 – 5,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>UH-60 Black Hawk</p> <p>ICAO Code: H60</p> <p>Category: Military</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 1,000 – 6,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |  <p>CH-47 Chinook</p> <p>ICAO Code: CH47</p> <p>Category: Military</p> <p>Typical Cruise Altitude: 1,000 – 6,000 ft</p> <p>Wake Turbulence Category: <b>SMALL</b></p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## WAKE TURBULENCE CATEGORIES

|                                                                      |                                                                      |                                                                          |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUPER</b><br>Boeing 747, Airbus A380<br>Extra separation required | <b>HEAVY</b><br>Large wide-body aircraft<br>More separation required | <b>LARGE</b><br>Most commercial aircraft<br>Standard separation required | <b>SMALL</b><br>General aviation, turboprops, helicopters<br>Less separation required |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



## WHY IT MATTERS

Controllers use aircraft type and size to provide safe separation, especially to avoid wake turbulence encounters.



## QUICK TIP

Listen for aircraft type in communications (example: "Boeing 737" or "Cessna 172").

