



AVOIDING UNSTABLE APPROACHES

Important Tips for PILOTS

“Keep it standard, keep it simple, keep it safe”

Maintain a mental picture of the required descent profile.

- Request distance updates from ATC if required.

Advise ATC as soon as possible if descent is required or additional track miles are needed to execute a stable approach.

- The sooner ATC knows, the greater is the probability that the request can be accommodated.

Be aware of published local ATC procedures/airspace restrictions that impact the approach.

- Airspace constraints may result in route and altitude restrictions.

Make requests for operational requirements, not for convenience.

- The earlier you tell ATC the easier it is to accommodate any request.
- Understand that you are part of a tightly integrated system with lots of arriving/departing aircraft and many operational variables (traffic patterns, airspace and airport design restrictions, noise restrictions, possible emergency operations on a different frequency), so ATC may not always be able to accommodate requests.

If you can't comply with an instruction, let ATC know early.

- Don't accept clearances that could put you into a situation leading to an unstable approach. The worst thing to do is to accept an instruction and then not comply with it.
- It's OK to say "UNABLE". Better still, say "UNABLE" and suggest an alternative.
- Use extreme caution when accepting visual approaches at unfamiliar airports.

Be predictable,

As far as possible, minimise differences (ATC can't be aware of all the variables e.g. aircraft performance, airline SOPs, etc).

When departing,

- Tell ATC if you're likely to need further time on the runway, before accepting a clearance to enter the runway. ATC might be making their plans for the arriving aircraft around you starting your take-off roll without delay.

If you have an emergency situation,

- Let ATC know as soon as is practicable, either by selecting the appropriate Mode A or using the standard phraseology. Once ATC are aware of your situation, they will **LEAVE YOU ALONE** and can start making preparations to accommodate whatever **YOU** may request, when **YOU** are ready.

According to IATA, an unstable approach was identified as a contributing factor for 17% of accidents between 2008 and 2012.