

ENGINE TESTING (MAINTENANCE RUN-UPS)

Aircraft engines are complex mechanical systems that require regular maintenance to meet the rigors of operational service. To maintain a high level of safety, Transport Canada defines stringent maintenance standards and requires operators to test engines and their components before the aircraft is put back into service. These tests are referred to as maintenance run-ups.

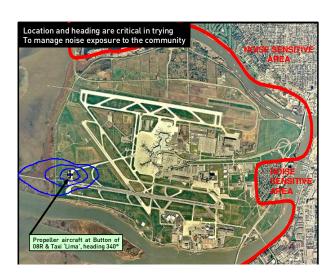
The duration and engine power setting during a run-up is dependent on the systems being checked. Maintenance staff will attempt to minimize the duration of the run-up as conducting a run-up translates to fuel burn and wear on engine components.

Because most aircraft are in operational service during the day, the only time maintenance staff are able to gain access to the aircraft is during the night-time hours. Maintenance work must be completed and the aircraft checked before it is put back into operational service the following morning.

To manage noise from run-up operations, the Vancouver Airport Authority maintains an Airport Operations Directive which contains procedures on how, where, and when run-ups are permitted. In accordance with the Directive, operators must call Airport Operations and request approval for their run-up. If an approval is granted, the operator is assigned a specific location on the airfield and a heading for the run-up. The location and heading is intended to ensure that the run-up is conducted safely and to minimize noise disturbances to those living in the immediate vicinity of the airport.

Despite efforts to mitigate noise exposure from maintenance run-ups to the community, this continues to be a challenge given the local geography, the complex sound characteristics from the noise source, and the close proximity of residential developments to the airport.

Should you be disturbed by a run-up, you may call (604) 207-7097 and speak to a representative in Airport Operations. With the information you provide, Airport Operations may be able to dispatch staff to investigate activities on the airfield. If an operator is found conducting a run-up without approval, Airport Operations will terminate the run-up.



In 2010, the Airport Authority Board of Directors approved the construction of a dedicated ground run-up enclosure to minimize the noise exposure on the community from aircraft maintenance activities. Further information on this project can be seen here.