

Aviation Safety Information Leaflet

“SOLO” call sign suffix for student pilots



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The use of call sign suffix for solo flights is a best practice that is strongly encouraged by the Belgian CAA.

The aim is to reduce the number of occurrences involving solo flights on the ground (10% of all Runway Incursions during taxi since 2013) and to prevent occurrences in the circuit by improving the situation awareness of all users.

The Belgian and G.D. of Luxembourg AIP will include this best practice in the ENR 1.1 General Rules under § 3.3.5.2 Communication Procedures as follows:

"The word "Solo" should be included by student pilots immediately after the ACFT call sign in the initial radiotelephony contact on each frequency with ATC (GND, TWR, APP, ACC), FIC and local radios."

Guidance on the use of the "Solo" call sign suffix:

On initial contact on each frequency with ATC (GND, TWR, APP, ACC), FIC and local radios on non-controlled aerodromes, student pilots who are flying solo should use the call sign suffix "SOLO" after the aircraft call sign. Once acknowledged, it will not normally be necessary for student pilots to use the suffix in subsequent transmissions until making initial contact on another frequency, unless they feel they are being instructed to do something with which they are unfamiliar.

ATC Controllers will acknowledge the initial call, again using the suffix, and can be expected, in so far as is practicable, to make due allowance for the limited experience and ability of student pilots in determining the pace and complexity of instructions and/or information which are subsequently passed.

Flight Instructors will brief students, specifically, on the use of this call sign suffix as part of their pre-solo briefing. The use of this call sign suffix is not intended to remove the additional requirement for flight instructors to notify ATC separately of 'first solo' flights where this is normal practice.

The use of the call sign "SOLO" is aimed at improving the situational awareness of other pilots on the same frequency