

A commercial airplane is shown in flight, banking to the right, against a backdrop of dense, green forested mountains under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a runway with white markings and blue lights is visible, extending towards the base of the mountains. A green speech bubble with a yellow border is positioned above the airplane.

"Gear Up"
"Heading Mode, 343"

ASE 'VFR Climb' Quick-Ref

Reducing Departure Delays at Aspen

ASE 'VFR Climb' Quick-Ref

Purpose:

- Reduces departure delays and increases Aspen Airport capacity when VMC exists (approx. 6000' ceiling & 5SM visibility)
- Retains IFR flight plan status; refer to AIM 4-4-8(c) and OpSpec C077(e), if applicable (Part 121 or 135)
- Relieves ATC of terrain/obstruction clearance requirements until an aircraft on a 'VFR Climb' reaches 13,000' MSL

Flight Crew Responsibilities:

- See-and-avoid other aircraft and maintain own terrain/obstruction clearance while on an ATC authorized 'VFR Climb'
- Maintain 14 CFR 91.155 basic VFR weather minimums below 13,000' MSL:
 - Below 10,000' MSL: 3SM Visibility | 500' below, 1,000' above, 2,000' horizontally from clouds
 - At/above 10,000' MSL: 5SM Visibility | 1000' below, 1,000' above, 1SM horizontally from clouds
- If able, request a 'VFR Climb' on initial contact with Aspen ATCT/Clearance Delivery (available by pilot request only)
- Expect the following phraseology from Aspen Clearance Delivery, *"Cleared to ABC Airport via the LINDZ8 Departure, to LINDZ, direct XYZ, then as filed. **Climb VFR below 13,000', maintain 16,000'...**"*
- Fly the LINDZ8 SID or as assigned by ASE ATCT; Comply with any amended instructions as assigned by ASE ATC
- **Turn right heading 343° as soon as practical after takeoff!** (Below 400' AGL and/or prior to Departure End of Runway 33 acceptable) This ensures separation from opposite direction traffic and rising terrain near Shale Bluffs northwest of DER
- At/above 9100' **or as assigned by ASE ATCT**, turn left heading 273° per the LINDZ8 SID
 - After takeoff, ASE ATCT may instruct aircraft to continue heading 343° and advise when to turn left heading 273° to ensure separation with opposite direction traffic; Expedient compliance with these instructions is critical for safety
 - **HDG** mode with manual pilot input encouraged to ensure prompt compliance with LINDZ8 until on heading 273°
- Advise ASE ATC as soon as possible if unable to 'climb VFR' due to weather (clouds/visibility) or if unable to comply with the assigned route or heading due to traffic or terrain/obstacles along the intended flight path

ASE ATC (ATCT/TRACAB) Responsibilities:

- Ensure Tower-applied Visual Separation between opposite direction departure and arrival aircraft
- Issue traffic advisories to both inbound arrival and outbound departure aircraft