



Broadened Airspace at Incheon Airport by the Adjustment of Military-Civilian

Date of Release: 25 September 2024

Dept. in Charge: **Air Traffic Division, MOLIT**

Contact: Annie KIM / Global Media Communicator, MOLIT / audiis2@korea.kr / +82 44 201 3056

Agreement on coordination of military airspace in the southwest sea including the south part of Incheon Airport between MOLIT and Air Force

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister PARK Sang-woo) and the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF, Chief of Staff General LEE Young-su) have agreed to adjust military airspace in the west sea, including the southern part of Incheon International Airport, as the airport is projected to approach the era of 100 million annual passengers in line with the completion of the 4th phase construction project at the end of October.

* Airspace is the designated space with a certain range of heights from the ground or sea level to ensure the safe operation of aircraft, etc.

This decision is based on the need to expand airspace capacity in the Seoul metropolitan area and adapt to changing military operational environment. With the expanded airspace available for civilian aircraft, smoother air traffic flow is expected, which will help accommodate increasing air traffic demand.

The metropolitan airspace has been remained unchanged for the past 20 years since the double-tracking of the Korea-China air route in 2004. However, due to the significant increase in flight operations at Incheon Airport – approximately 200% more compared to 2001 – the necessity for airspace adjustment has been continuously raised.



On the other hand, the ROKAF has also needed to expand military airspace in response to the growing number of advanced aircraft and the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles, while considering the safety of increasing civilian air traffic alongside rapidly changing operational environments.

To address these challenges, the MOLIT and the ROKAF have been discussing on airspace adjustment since 2018, recognizing the importance of more efficient use of limited airspace.

After thorough consideration of various aspects such as national security, aviation safety, and the revitalization of the aviation industry, an agreement was made in August of this year.

Following internal decision-making procedures, the West Sea Military Airspace Adjustment Plan was officially approved at the 30th Airspace Committee held on 24 September, and the results are set to take effect on 28 November 2024 after going through an announcement via the Aeronautical Information Publication.

The adjustments include:

1. Moving the ACMI and restricted flight areas southward by 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) from the southern part of Incheon Airport
2. Expanding restricted flight areas in the west sea and military operation areas to the west by 8 nautical miles (14.8 km) and increasing the upper altitude limit from 40,000 to 50,000 feet
3. Raising the lower altitude limit of a south part of military operation area in the north of Jeju Airport from 10,000 feet to 17,000 feet



With these adjustments, the MOLIT will secure airspace to smoothly manage air traffic at Incheon Airport's runways 3 and 4, increasing its aircraft capacity from the 75 flights per hour to 78 by the end of this year, and to 80 by 2025.

Furthermore, the ROKAF will also be able to establish a solid foundation for diverse tactical training with advanced aircraft and further strengthened joint aerial exercises by expanding and adjusting in the west sea military airspace.

Meanwhile, the military airspace in the north of Jeju International Airport has also been adjusted, enabling it to accommodate increasing air traffic volume for passengers' safer and more comfortable traveling through the airport.