

# WINTER OPERATIONS

at Toronto Pearson International Airport

Greater Toronto Airports Authority  
Fact Sheet

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) has carefully designed a systematic approach to winter operations in order to minimize operational impact during winter events. A number of components make up the GTAA's winter plan of operations to reduce inconvenience to the travelling public and maintain safe operations during winter weather.

## Central Deicing Facility (CDF)

- Aircraft deicing and anti-icing are vital steps in the safe and efficient operation of aircraft at Toronto Pearson
- *Deicing* - the application of a heated glycol and water mixture to remove any frozen contamination adhering to critical flight control surfaces on an aircraft
- *Anti-icing* - precautionary procedure that provides protection against icing
- Partial operations began at the CDF in the 1998-1999 season and the facility became fully operational in the 1999-2000 season
- Built and owned by the GTAA, the CDF is operated by Penauille Servisair on a contractual basis
- State-of-the-art technology has been incorporated into the design and operational aspects of the CDF
- The CDF consists of six deicing pads capable of simultaneously deicing six wide body aircraft or twelve narrow body aircraft, and up to 500 aircraft per day
- In keeping with the airport's environmental management program, the facility is built on a special liner that minimizes the release of glycol into the environment. This liner is part of a comprehensive collection system with a total storage capacity of over 12 million litres for glycol contaminated fluids
- A Deicing Operations building (Icehouse) provides centralized communications with the CDF Operations tower and support facilities housing equipment and personnel
- The CDF's location in relation to runways and taxiways ensures efficient traffic flow
- The official deicing season runs from October 1 through April 30
- An on-site glycol recycling facility began operations in 2007

## 2007/2008 Winter Statistics for CDF

The winter of 2007/2008 was a record breaking season at the CDF. The number of aircraft deiced over the winter totalled 13,743 and there were 9,973,666 litres of glycol processed through the facility.

### **Snow Desk**

- Coordinates winter operations on behalf of the GTAA and is staffed by a Duty Manager and an Operations Support Specialist during inclement winter weather whenever a minimum of 3cm of snow or freezing rain is forecast
- Continuously monitors airfield conditions via specially prepared reports and the air traffic control tower frequency
- Information gathered is disseminated via conference calls with airlines and other agencies
- Central point for communications relating to winter operations and all special requests for snow removal
- Direct lines are maintained to NAV CANADA's control tower, Area Control Centre and GTAA Maintenance Command Centre

### **Airside Snow Removal**

- Runway occupancy is 15 minutes or less from the beginning of the clearing operation
- Toronto Pearson's entire five runways and associated taxiway system can be cleared in just over one hour
- Up to 30 vehicles move onto the airfield in a precise, predetermined circuit
- The team works together to plow, sweep, clear and treat all airfield surfaces that are affected by snow or ice
- Initially, crews clear a runway to a minimum of 160 feet wide, along with all high speed exits for the intended runway use
- As soon as operations permit, the runway is cleared to its full width of 200 feet.



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For additional fact sheets about the GTAA and Toronto Pearson, visit [www.GTAA.com](http://www.GTAA.com).