AIRBUS A3xx Family

HUB OPERATIONS / AIRCRAFT OPERATING PROCEDURES

COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS — AIRBUS A320 FAMILY

A319 / A320 / A321 (ceo and neo, including A321XLR where applicable). Excludes A220, A300, A330, A350 and A380.

EDITION	EFFECTIVE	OWNER	APPLICATION
1.0 | 2026–27	01 NOV 2026	Hub Operations	All AAVA divisions

FOR FLIGHT SIMULATION USE ONLY | Aircraft-specific FCOM/QRH and performance limitations take precedence.

1.0 GENERAL & AAVA APPLICABILITY

This manual applies to every AAVA flight operated in this aircraft family, regardless of airline branding, callsign, codeshare, heritage, event, charter, passenger or cargo designation. All AAVA flights use the same Hub Operations winter operating framework based on American Airlines-style operational standardization; no actual American Airlines proprietary SOP or regulatory operations-specification approval is implied.

Cold-weather awareness is condition-driven and applies all year, not only November–April. Evaluate icing conditions, frost, snow, freezing precipitation, airport and runway conditions, freezing fuel/clear ice, and delays. Temperature alone does not establish every anti-ice switch requirement.

Hierarchy: applicable aircraft-specific AFM/FCOM/QRH and addon limitations → applicable FAA fluid guidance/aircraft performance data → AAVA flight-operations procedures. If guidance conflicts, use the higher-authority aircraft limitation and notify Hub Operations.

2.0 CLEAN AIRCRAFT CONCEPT & PRE-FLIGHT

Do not begin takeoff with frost, ice, snow or slush on critical surfaces unless a specifically applicable aircraft-approved exception is established. The captain is accountable for the final departure decision. Ground treatment is not a substitute for verification.

Inspect wings (upper and leading-edge surfaces), tail, control surfaces, slats/flaps/fairings, engine inlets, probes, ports, sensors and other aircraft-designated critical areas. Include contamination from overnight exposure, freezing fog, ground spray and cold-soaked fuel.

Transparent ice can be difficult to identify visually. Do not assume an overwing-window or flight-deck view reliably establishes the condition of every surface. Use an authorized ground or tactile inspection when necessary, and do not invent a manufacturer frost exception.

3.0 GROUND DEICING / ANTI-ICING

Deicing removes existing contaminants; anti-icing uses an appropriate fluid to protect previously clean surfaces from renewed contamination for a limited time. When frozen precipitation is falling or expected before takeoff, assess whether anti-icing protection is required in addition to removal.

SAE Type I typically provides shorter protection. Types II, III and IV have distinct aerodynamic acceptance, aircraft-speed eligibility and fluid-specific limits. Do not presume a fluid is suitable simply because it is available; apply aircraft and FAA fluid restrictions.

Deicing only: use when contamination is removed and the aircraft will stay clean to takeoff. One-step deicing/anti-icing: use only where fluid/application conditions produce an applicable valid HOT. Two-step: remove contamination and apply a compatible anti-icing fluid when continued protection is needed. Where degraded fluid exists, use the applicable removal/re-treatment procedure, not a simple top-off.

3.1 Ground crew coordination

1. Confirm aircraft identifier, location, contamination and weather conditions, type of treatment requested, and estimated taxi/departure delay.

2. Coordinate required aircraft flap/slat position, engine/APU and pneumatic configuration, windows/doors, truck clearances, anti-collision lights and safety zone using the exact aircraft-specific procedures.

3. Receive fluid type/brand, mixture/concentration, final application start time and confirmation that treatment and post-treatment checks are complete; record them for the departure decision.

4. Do not taxi until the ground team reports clear personnel/equipment and the crew completes the applicable after-treatment checklist.

4.0 FAA WINTER 2026–2027 HOLDOVER / ALLOWANCE TIMES

The separately distributed FAA Holdover Time Guidelines for Winter 2026–2027 (original issue 11 August 2026) and the companion FAA Ground Deicing Program General Information are the controlling reference for table selection. Hub Operations must check for revised editions. Notice 8900.784 describes this winter’s FAA program.

HOT begins with the start of the FINAL deicing/anti-icing step for a two-step treatment (or the start of the applicable one-step treatment), as specified by the FAA guidance. It is an estimated protection interval, not a certification that the aircraft remains clean.

Select the proper table using SAE fluid type, tested fluid brand, concentration, aircraft-material category where applicable (particularly Type I aluminum versus composites), temperature and precipitation. Follow table notes, lowest operational use temperature and aircraft-speed restrictions. Degree-specific HOT may be available under the FAA program.

Check the current precipitation and temperature before departure. If precipitation intensity/type changes, temperature decreases, or an unexpected delay occurs, reassess the validity of the selected protection. No published HOT means no assumed HOT.

Allowance times for ice pellets/small hail are distinct from normal HOT; they depend on eligible validated fluids and precise FAA conditions. Do not use a visual cabin check to create an unlimited extension. Heavy snow and particular freezing precipitation may have no HOT: follow the current FAA limitation and authorized inspection/re-treatment path.

4.1 Pre-takeoff contamination decision

5. Confirm treatment completion, ground crew clearance and clean-aircraft inspection status.

6. Update airport weather and identify the precise precipitation type/intensity and temperature.

7. Confirm applicable fluid data and that the correct FAA table, notes and HOT/allowance logic remain valid.

8. Perform any required aircraft-specific pre-takeoff check or pre-takeoff contamination check, by authorized person/method and within the applicable time requirement.

9. If critical surfaces cannot be confirmed clean, no permitted protection path exists, or the condition changed beyond current guidance: do not depart; inspect and/or re-treat.

5.0 CONTAMINATED RUNWAY & FLIGHT PLANNING

Before takeoff and landing, review reported runway condition, runway condition codes (RWYCC) when available, precipitation depth/type, braking-action reports, runway length and slope, crosswind, and available aircraft-specific performance calculation. A dry-runway calculation must not be treated as a contaminated-runway result.

Evaluate delays and alternate/diversion planning. Landing distance margins and takeoff power/flap choices are model-specific; “maximum thrust for all contaminated runways” and a universal reverse-thrust reduction speed are not reliable substitute procedures.

A slippery rejected takeoff or landing requires the aircraft-specific braking, directional-control and reverse-thrust technique. Follow the specific FCOM/QRH rather than a blanket rudder/braking speed threshold.

6.0 AIRBUS A320 FAMILY ENGINE ANTI-ICE

Use ENG ANTI ICE per the installed A319/A320/A321 FCOM for ground and in-flight icing conditions, accounting for engine type, external temperature, visible moisture and phase-specific criteria. An unqualified “OAT/TAT ≤10°C with visible moisture” statement alone is not adequate for all phases.

Confirm the effects of anti-ice on idle thrust, climb performance, fuel planning, approach and landing calculations. Use ECAM indications and the applicable abnormal/non-normal procedure when the system reports faults or suspect ice accretion.

Any prolonged low-thrust icing operation or engine ice-shedding run-up must use the correct engine-specific FCOM technique. Do not impose a universal 15-minute interval or N1 target across CFM, IAE, PW or LEAP variants.

7.0 AIRBUS A320 FAMILY WING ANTI-ICE / IN-FLIGHT ICING

Follow the A320-family FCOM for WING ANTI ICE use in icing conditions. Do not describe “wait for visible ice” as a universal primary activation method. Aircraft ice detection/ECAM cues, flight phase and manufacturer procedures determine the action.

Monitor icing and aircraft handling; review ice-related protections, speed margins, approach performance and the relevant ECAM/QRH guidance. The historical general rule below −40°C SAT must not override manufacturer-specific limits or instructions.

Where severe icing or unmodeled system behavior is encountered, prioritize remaining within aircraft operating limitations and leaving the conditions when necessary.

8.0 AIRBUS GROUND CONFIGURATION, CLEAR ICE & ICE RIDGES

Before treatment, use the applicable aircraft FCOM for slat/flap configuration, engines/APU, bleed/pack settings, air-conditioning inlets, doors and windows. Deicing in the wrong configuration can obstruct contaminant removal or expose equipment; do not transplant 737 flap angles or checklists.

Cold-soaked fuel can produce clear ice or frost difficult to see on wing upper surfaces. Only use a cold-soaked fuel frost exception where a verified aircraft-model/manufacturer procedure expressly permits it and all conditions are satisfied.

Inspect the lower forward fuselage, especially in front of pitot probes, for ice ridges. Airbus identifies these as a source of unreliable airspeed; any ridge must be removed using the proper maintenance/deicing procedure. Protect pitot/static/AoA sensors from direct deicing spray.

For post-landing flap retraction when ice may be present, follow the applicable Airbus FCOM/maintenance precautions. The prior universal instruction to retain CONF 1 until cleared is not issued without variant-specific substantiation.

8.1 Airbus other families — excluded from this publication

The A220, A300/600, A330, A350 and A380 have different systems and manufacturer operating techniques. They will receive separate aircraft-family procedures. Do not apply this A320-family booklet as their aircraft supplement.

9.0 SIMULATION & OPERATING LIMITATIONS

For simulators that model deicing, icing or runway braking, pilots must use the installed aircraft procedures and simulation limitations. If the platform does not model ground-fluid protection, simulate the realistic decision and paperwork sequence; a logged HOT does not create actual simulator protection.

This manual provides AAVA operational expectations, not real-world dispatch authority or an alternative to manufacturer-approved guidance. Do not apply a procedure from one aircraft engine or generation to another without verification.

10.0 REFERENCE CONTROL

FAA Holdover Time Guidelines, Winter 2026–2027, original issue 11 August 2026 (supplied separately; check for updates):
https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/deicing/

FAA Notice 8900.784, 3 August 2026:
https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1045444

FAA AC 120-60B, Ground Deicing and Anti-icing Program:
https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/advisory_circulars/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/23199

Airbus Safety First — Look out for Ice Ridges on the Lower Nose Fuselage:
https://safetyfirst.airbus.com/look-out-for-ice-ridges-on-the-lower-nose-fuselage/

AAVA Cold Weather Operations baseline and Hub Operations Deice/Anti-Ice Procedure / Winter Operations Reference Card. Standards apply across all AAVA operating divisions.

11.0 CHANGE RECORD

2026–2027 edition: separated general FAA ground-icing and contaminated-runway requirements from aircraft-specific cockpit settings; removed unsupported fleetwide N1, flap and thrust numbers; added FAA 2026–2027 document control and explicit inspection/re-treatment decision process; preserved aircraft-specific operational topics.

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