

# Cessna 172M CHECKLIST

Revision 7-15-2010-VFR

## DISPATCH CHECK

1. **Weather & Notams & Squawks**
2. **Inspections** - 50/100 Hourly, Annual, ELT, Transponder, Pitot Static, VOR

## ACCEPTANCE CHECK

1. **Fuel and Oil Level** – (*Check at arrival*)
2. **Tiedowns, Chocks, Covers** - *Removed*
3. **Windshield** – Cleaning? (Pledge & diaper rags)
4. **Control Lock** – Remove
5. **Compass Card** – Installed
6. **Flight Controls** – Check free and correct
7. **Circuit Breakers** – All in
8. **Magnetos/Ignition Switch** - OFF
9. **Primer** – In and Locked
10. **Cabin Lights** – Set as desired
11. **Parking Brake** - Set
12. **Heating and Cooling Vents** – Set desired
13. **Mixture** – Idle cut off
14. **Throttle** – Full idle. **Friction lock**- Set desired
15. **Carburetor Heat** – OFF
16. **Trim** – Set to TAKE OFF
17. **Fuel Selector** – Set to BOTH
18. **Hobbsmeter, Tachometer** – Record
19. **Fire Extinguisher** – Check integrity
20. **Documentation** – Check AR(R)OW
21. **Passengers**– brief cards & sick sacks
22. **Seat Adjustment** - Set
23. **Avionics Units** – Off
24. **Master Switch** – On
25. **Fuel Gauges/Ammeter**- Check Reading
26. **Flaps** - Set 10 degrees
27. **(Pitot Heat) Landing/Taxi/Nav Lights/Strobes** – On as needed. Check externally then OFF
28. **Master Switch** – OFF

## EXTERIOR CHECK

1. **A/C CHECKLIST** – Keep clean. Do not use as kneepad
2. **Left Fuel** – Drained?

3. **Left Fuselage** – Inspect. Undamaged
4. **Vertical Stabilizer**- Secured
5. **Elevator** – Free travel, undamaged. Hinge Bolts Secured. Attachment bolts secured. Horizontal stab recesses unobstructed.
6. **Rudder** – Undamaged. Safety wiring inspect. Free & full travel. Upper attachment bolts. DO NOT bend trim tab.
7. **Tail** -. Untie. Recesses unobstructed. Attachment flange cotter pins secured.
8. **Elevator Tab**- Secure. Has up and down play, no side to side or back and forth play. Actuator bolt secured.
9. **Right Fuselage** – Inspect
10. **ELT Antenna** - Secure
11. **Fuel Drain** – Sump & inspect
12. **Right Main Landing Gear** – Inspect. Cotter pin, tread, inflation, hub, disk, pads, lines,
13. **Right Flap** – Hinges secure. Has play. Rails aligned. Actuator has play.
14. **Right Aileron** – Secure. Free & correct travel. Actuator has play. No Left/Right, back and forth play. Hinges & counterweights secured.
15. **Right Wing Tip** – Undamaged & secured. Light installations secured.
16. **Right Wing Lead edge & underside** – Undamaged. Inspection plates closed.
17. **Right Wing Tie Down** – Untie
18. **Right Fuel Tank** – *Quantity checked?*
19. **Right Left Fuel Tank Cap** - Secured
20. **Wing Top Surface & Antennae** – Damage free.
21. **Right Cowl** - Screwed secure
22. **Fresh Air Cabin Intake** – Inspect
23. **Oil Level** – Confirmed at 6 Qts
24. **Gascolator Sump**
25. **Carburetor Intake** – Clear
26. **Engine Cooling Intakes** – Clear
27. **Alternator Belt** - Secure
28. **Propellor** – Inspect
29. **Spinner** – Inspect

30. **Front Landing Gear** – Inspect tread, inflation, cotter pin. Shock absorber inspect.
31. **Underside** - Inspect
32. **Crank Case Oil Breather Intake** – Clear
33. **Transponder Antenna** - Clean
34. **Left Cowl** Inspect
35. **Static port** - Clear
36. **Left Fuel Tank** – *Quantity checked?*
37. **Left Fuel Tank Cap** – Secured
38. **Pitot Tube** – Ram intake & drain hole clear
39. **Left Fuel Vent** - Clear
40. **Stall Port** - Clear
41. **Left Wing Tie Down** - Untie
42. **Left Wing Lead edge, Underside** - Undamaged, Inspect panels, screws
43. **Left Wingtip** – Undamaged & secured
44. **Left Aileron** – Secure. Free & correct travel
45. **Left Wing Flap** – Secure & has play
46. **Left Main Landing Gear** – Inspect Tread, inflation, hub, disk, pads, lines, absorber
47. **Baggage door** – Locked shut
48. **Wash hands after handling fuel, oil, or LPS!**
49. **WALK AROUND** – chocks, tiedowns fuel and oil caps, cowl plugs, towbars

## PRESTART

1. **Passenger Brief** –
2. **Departure & noise abatement** - review
3. **Takeoff Emergency Brief** - Review
4. **Doors, Seat belts, Harnesses** – Secured
5. **Clearance** - Obtain/Review

## NORMAL START

**(Italicized/Underlined items ONLY for Fuel Station Quick Start prior taxi to parking)**

1. **Main Switch - ON**
2. **Squawk Code/Coms/Navs/OBS/GPS** FPL/AWOS (Turn ON / Set as needed / & TURN OFF)
3. **Fuel Selector – BOTH**
4. **Mixture - Rich**
5. **Beacon - ON**
6. **Fuel Primer** - Up to 3 Shots as needed

7. Throttle - Set ¼ inch travel open
6. Prop Area – Visually clear
9. Magnetos – **START**
10. Throttle -1000
11. Mixture - Lean for taxi (1/2 trave / 1 inch?)

### AFTER START CHECK

(Italicized/Underlined items ONLY for Fuel Station Quick Start prior taxi to parking)

1. **Oil Pressure** – Green within 30 seconds
2. Alternator Switch – recheck ON
3. **Ammeter Test** – Pitot heat /landing light cycle.  
Amps Neutral
4. **Flaps** – Extend & Retract.
5. Avionics – ON, headsets on
6. **Radios** – Check
7. **Transponder** – standby
8. **Flight Instruments** – Check and set
9. **Timer** – Start
10. Brake - Release

### TAXI CHECK

1. **Brakes** – check operation
2. **Flight Instruments** – actuate
3. **RPM** – As needed. 1000 at a stand still.

### RUN UP CHECK

1. **Nosewheel** - Straight
2. **Doors** - Latched or secured
3. **Parking Brake** – Set
4. **Mixture** - Rich
5. **Throttle** – 1700 RPM
6. **Magneto Check** – L/Both, R/Both  
(Max -125 RPMdrop/50 between)
7. **Engine Instruments**
8. **Ammeter** – Neutral
9. **Vacuum Suction** – About 5 inches.
10. **Carb heat** – ON. RPM falls
11. **Throttle** – Smoothly to idle. RPM steady
12. **Carb heat** -OFF –RPM rises
13. **Throttle** – 1000 RPM
14. **Breakers** – Still flush
15. **Parking Brake** – Release

### PRETAKE OFF CHECK

1. **Door, Belts, Harnesses** – Secured
2. **Flight Controls** – Free
3. **Fuel Selector** – Recheck on BOTH
4. **Trim** – Recheck set for Take Off
5. **Flaps** – Recheck setting
6. **Mixture** – Recheck Full Rich
7. **Lights** – Strobe ON, Beacon recheck ON,  
LANDING at night
8. **Primer** – Locked
9. **Transponder** – Altitude
10. **Radio** – Recheck frequency
11. **Flow Check** – Complete
12. **Base, Final, and Runway** – Clear
13. **Windows** - Shut.

### ROLL CHECK (review *prior* to departure)

1. **Upwind & Crosswind** - Clear
2. **Carb/Throttle/Mix** – Full Forward
3. **Engine Instruments** – Green, +2275 RPM
4. **Brakes** – Release
5. **VR @ 60kt, VY @ 70kt/Max Climb**

### 500 Feet AGL (Memory Item)

**Pitch** – Cruise climb attitude, 80kt

### CRUISE CHECK

1. **Power/Mix/Trim/Lights** – Set
2. **Engine Instruments**- monitor green
3. **DG** – monitor precession

### INITIAL DESCENT CHECK

1. **Engine Instruments** - Green
2. **Lights** – ON as needed
3. **Circuit Breakers** – in
4. **Magnetos** – BOTH
5. **Primer** – In & locked
6. **Fuel Selector** – BOTH
7. **Seat belts & harnesses** – Secure
8. **Auto Wx /Radio** – Check & Set
9. **Altimeter & DG** – Reset
10. **Loose Equipment** - Stowed

### APPROACH/PATTERN (Memory Item)

1. **Carb heat on**
2. **Approach 65 - 75 kts as needed**
3. **Short final speed +60 kts (30 of flaps)**
4. **Verify final flap setting.**

### AFTERLANDING CHECK

1. **Flaps** – retract to take off
2. **Carburetor Heat** – OFF
3. **Mixture** – lean for taxi
4. **Landing & or Taxi Light(s)**- OFF
5. **Strobe** – OFF
6. **Transponder** – Standby
7. **Trim** – Set for take off

### SHUT DOWN CHECK

(Underlined items ONLY for Fuel Station Quick Start or MX Repo Shut Down)

1. **Parking Brake** – Set
2. **Flight Plan** – CLOSED
3. **ELT** - Quiet
4. ALL Avionics Units – OFF
5. **Power** – Idle
6. **Magnetos** – Check grounding
7. Power – 1000 RPM
8. Mixture – Idle cut off
9. Main & Alternator Switches – OFF
10. Magnetos – OFF & key out
11. Fuel Selector- Left or Right
12. Cabin Panel & Overhead lights – OFF
13. Hobbs, & Tachometer times – Record
14. Squawks – Record
15. Control Lock – installed

PUSHBACK Push on prop root ONLY or wing lead edge. NOT on spinner or cowling.

### SECURE

1. **Towbar** – Stowed
2. **Cowl plugs & Pitot & Cabin Covers** – Install
3. **Tiedowns** – Secure
4. **Tire Condition** – Verify
5. **Aircraft** –Latch/Lock cabin & cargo doors