

Briefing Sheet

April 2016

Climb-Via

CISP Pilot Reports from 2016:

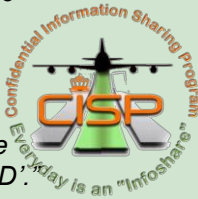
After takeoff, the departure controller issued "Climb via the xxx departure, except climb and maintain 16,000". I misunderstood the instruction and initially deleted the crossing of 4000 and 5000.

ATC cleared us to "climb via SID except maintain 16,000". We mistook the word "except" to mean climb unrestricted since the published altitude is 16,000.

The "climb via" and "climb via except" are confusing and ambiguous and the FOM explanation does not really cover the common clearance confusion.

"After we contacted departure control, he told us to climb to 10,000 feet. We slowed the climb to comply with the climb via. ATC asked if we were climbing. I replied "Yes, we are climbing via departure". He snapped back that we were cleared to 10,000 feet and not via climb."

"Tower clearance was 'turn left 210 cleared for takeoff'. I told the tower 'I assume climb and maintain 5000?' He said 'climb via the SID restrictions'. I said we are no longer on the SID with a heading. He said 'Climb via SID'."



Changes to "Climb Via" have been a challenge for ATC and Pilots alike. The subtle differences between "Climb Via", "Climb Via except Maintain", and "Climb and Maintain" are often lost.

CLIMB VIA SID –Comply with published altitude restrictions to the top altitude published on the SID. Fly procedure lateral path. Comply with all published speed restrictions.

CLIMB VIA SID EXCEPT MAINTAIN ALTITUDE - Comply with published altitude restrictions up to assigned ALTITUDE. Fly procedure lateral path. Comply with all published speed restrictions.

CLIMB AND MAINTAIN - Climb unrestricted to assigned ALTITUDE, published SID altitude restrictions are deleted. Fly procedure lateral path. Comply with all published speed restrictions.

Pilots commonly report receiving confusing and incorrect phraseology, for example:

- Issuing "Climb Via" when vectored or deviating off procedure.
- "Climb via SID, except climb and maintain xxx",
- "Climb via SID, climb and maintain xxx",
- "Climb via SID, maintain xxx"
- "Climb and maintain xxx, observe restrictions"



Facility discussion

How does your facility issue "Climb Via" when issuing a PDC or verbal clearances?

What steps does your facility take to ensure Climb Via Phraseology is issued correctly?

For information on ATSAP Positives please visit the ATSAP web site at: <https://www.atsapsafety.com/atsap-home/> or on MYFAA: https://my.faa.gov/org/linebusiness/ato/safety/atsap/atsap_positives.html