

Request Clearance Through Class B Airspace

- ① PILOT
Kansas City Approach, Skyhawk Two Three Six Papa Whiskey, request.
- ② APPROACH CONTROLLER
Skyhawk Two Three Six Papa Whiskey, Kansas City Approach. Say request.
- ③ PILOT
Skyhawk Two Three Six Papa Whiskey is over Lees Summit at six thousand five hundred, request Bravo transition to Rosecrans.
- ④ APPROACH CONTROLLER
Skyhawk Six Papa Whiskey, squawk five three two seven. Maintain VFR.
- ⑤ PILOT
Squawk five three two seven, maintain VFR. Skyhawk Six Papa Whiskey.
- ⑥ APPROACH CONTROLLER
Skyhawk Six Papa Whiskey, radar contact one mile east of Lees Summit. Cleared into the Kansas City Class Bravo. Maintain six thousand five hundred, direct Rosecrans.
- ⑦ PILOT
Cleared into the Class Bravo. Maintain six thousand five hundred. Direct Rosecrans. Skyhawk Six Papa Whiskey.

Many miles and traffic advisories later ...

- ⑧ APPROACH CONTROLLER
Cessna Six Papa Whiskey, leaving Bravo airspace. Radar service terminated, squawk VFR. Frequency change approved.
- ⑨ PILOT
Squawk VFR. Six Papa Whiskey.

Flying through Class B airspace can be faster, simpler, and safer than going around, over, or under it. However, you need an actual clearance to enter the airspace, and you're under positive ATC control the entire time. You must fly the heading and altitude assigned, and can't deviate without permission.

The general format for the call ③ is

[Full call sign [Location] at [Altitude], request Bravo transition to [Direction/Destination].

Hearing your call sign and getting a squawk code ④ is not a clearance to enter the Class B. Listen for some variation of "Cleared into the Class Bravo airspace." These are the magic words that allow you to legally enter and fly through the Class B. You'll receive traffic advisories, vectors, and altitude changes as necessary as you transition. Once you're clear of the airspace, the controller should tell you, and let you resume your own navigation ⑧.

The utility of a Class B transition often depends on which way you want to go versus which way the airliners are landing that day.

