IFR Departure Decision Tree

1. Does your clearance contain a named DP or specific departure headings and altitudes?
   - YES: 400 ft AGL, follow clearance
   - NO: Is there a published IAP for the departure airport?

2. Is there a published IAP for the departure airport?
   - NO: You are on your own!
   - YES: Is the runway listed as NA?

3. Is the runway listed as NA?
   - NO: Is there a required climb gradient?
     - NO: Does takeoff require non-std ceiling and vis?
       - YES: Wx above mins?
         - NO: Is there an obstacle DP?
           - YES: 400 AGL, then >=200’/nm climb on course
           - NO: 400 AGL, then >=200’/nm climb on course
         - YES: Wx above mins for those that don’t meet gradient?
           - NO: 400 AGL, maintain gradient to stipulated altitude
             Follow obs. DP
           - YES: 400 AGL, maintain gradient to stipulated altitude
             Follow obs. DP
         - YES: 400 AGL, maintain gradient to stipulated altitude
           Follow obs. DP
     - YES: Can you meet it?
       - NO: 400 AGL, climb above apt to stipulated ceiling, then follow obs. DP, climbing >=200’/nm
       - YES: 400 AGL, climb above apt to stipulated ceiling, then follow obs. DP, climbing >=200’/nm

(1) J. Eckalbar, *IFR, A Structured Approach*

(2) Check that you can meet any DP climb gradients.
(3) If “turn as soon as practicable”, turn when able above 50’ AGL