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Specialised Operations (Aerial Work) Flights in the Shannon FIR/UIR

1. General

Aerial Work flights in the European Union are known as **Specialised Operations** and include flights for the purpose of activities such as agriculture, construction, photography, surveying, observation and patrol, aerial advertisements and maintenance check flights. In general, these flights are governed by SUBPART-SPO of European Union (EU) Commission Regulation No 965/2012 (as amended) on air operations and are commonly referred to as PART-SPO Flights.

These (EU) regulations require that SPO operators make a “(PART-SPO) **Declaration**” in the (EU) Member State where the operation has its principal place of business. A valid copy of this declaration must be carried on board the aircraft and declared operations may be conducted in other (EU) Member States without further formality.

It should be noted that these harmonised (EU) rules do not apply to Aerial Work operators based outside the European Union or so called “third country operators”. A third country operator will generally require a prior permission from the aviation authority of a European State before commencing aerial work operations in that State. In Ireland, third country operators should contact the Flight Operations Department of the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) at fod@iaa.ie to enquire about the requirements for a national aerial work permission.

2. Air Operations in the Shannon FIR/UIR

The purpose of this section is to explain the airspace notification procedures to which ALL operators shall adhere prior to commencing any type of Specialised or Aerial Work operations in the Shannon FIR/UIR. These procedures are irrespective of where an SPO Declaration is made in the (EU) or the type of Aerial Work Permission issued by the IAA.

Prior to planned operations, an email should be sent to the appropriate ATC unit(s) at least 24 hours before the intended departure time of the Specialised Operations or Aerial Work flight. The email should contain the following:

1. A copy of the operator’s (EU) PART-SPO Declaration or National Aerial Work Permission, and the High-Risk Authorisation (HRA) or Minimum Heights permission (if either are applicable).
2. The description of the specialised operation flight, detailing:
 - a. ADEP & ADES (if applicable);
 - b. Proposed date and times of flights;
 - c. Aircraft type and registration;
 - d. Number of persons on board; and,
 - e. A description of the route and the purpose of the operation.

3. A H24 contact phone number at which the aircraft operator can be contacted.
4. Unless otherwise agreed with the ANSP, chart(s) of the planned operational route(s). Each chart should bear a serial number or appropriate reference number.
5. A description of what (if any) standard flight patterns are to be used, specifying the flight rules & altitudes/flight levels at which the aircraft will be flown for each type of application.
6. Any supplementary information if relevant, such as:
 - a. Any flight near to obstructions or in hilly terrain;
 - b. Any flight operating close to or underneath cables or wind turbines;
 - c. Flights in the vicinity of motorways and main roads (flight profiles should be designed to minimise the risk of distracting drivers);
 - d. Any limitations on the performance profile or operational restrictions which may apply to the flight during the specialised operation flight; and
 - e. Any specialised operation flight operating in the vicinity of an airport.

Please note the following general points for all flights:

- The responsibility to file an appropriate flight plan in the normal manner still lies with the aircraft operator. The inclusion of the flight plan information in the email does not constitute the filing of a flight plan.
- ATC approval may be subject to conditions/delay depending on the air traffic situation.
- The aircraft operator and pilot in command is responsible for complying with the applicable (EU) Standardised Rules of the Air (SERA).
- Failure to adhere to the requirements above may lead to a delay in ATC approval to carry out the Specialised Operation or Aerial Work Flight.
- AIP Ireland contains information on airspace and Air Traffic Control Units. It is the responsibility of the aircraft operator to contact all ATC agencies that may be impacted by the operation.
- Photography flights operating in or in the vicinity of designated military areas as outlined in AIP Ireland section ENR 5-1 and ENR 5-2 are subject to approval by the Irish Air Corps.
- Any approvals issued by the Irish Air Corps only refer to the operation of the flight with respect to airspace designated for use by the Defence Forces and does not constitute a permission for photography or survey of military installations or any activity which is prohibited or for which specific approval is required.

3. Air Traffic Control Centre(s) contact details

Shannon ACC	STATIONMANAGERSSNN@IAA.ie	+353 (0) 61-366148
Dublin ACC	atcdub@iaa.ie	+353 (0) 1 8067334/01 844 5962
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