

	<p style="text-align: center;">Aeronautical Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advisory Memorandum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(ASAM)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Focal Point: ADR</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASAM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No: 44</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Issue 1.0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date 08.04.21</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Guidance on the Licensing and Certification of Heliports</p>	

Definitions:

“Helideck” – A heliport located on a fixed or floating offshore facility such as an exploration and/or production unit used for the exploitation of oil and gas.

“Heliport” – An aerodrome or a defined area on a structure intended to be used wholly or in part for the arrival, departure and surface movement of helicopters;

“Elevated heliport” – A heliport located on a raised structure on land;

“Offshore location” – means a location or destination on a fixed or floating offshore structure or vessel, and includes helidecks, helicopter hoist operations areas, and operating sites;

“Operating site” – means a site, other than an aerodrome or licenced elevated site, selected by the operator, or pilot-in-command/commander for landing, take-off and/or external load operations;

“Surface-level heliport” – A heliport located on the ground or on a structure on the surface of the water.

1. Applicability

1.1 This document is intended to provide guidance to Heliport operators in relation to:

- (i) The certification process for Surface-level VFR Heliports located at Aerodromes within the State, within the scope of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139;
- (ii) The licensing process to be adhered to for nationally licensed Heliports within the State.

Note: *This ASAM does not address permissions required at: “offshore locations”, “helideck” operations or operations of helicopters at an: “operating site”. Specific guidance is available within the following Directions:*

- *Aeronautical Notice O41 – “Operation of Helicopters at Operating Sites”;*

- *Aeronautical Notice O74 – “Irish national requirements for Offshore Helicopter Operations additional to the applicable requirements of (EU) Commission Regulation, No. 965/2012”.*

2. Surface-level VFR Heliports located at Aerodromes within the State, within the scope of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139

2.1 Surface-level VFR Heliports located at Aerodromes that fall under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 are subject to:

CS HPT-DSN.A.010 Applicability

- (a) The certification specifications (CSs) and the related guidance material (GM) (CS-HPT-DSN) are applicable to the design of surface-level VFR heliports or parts thereof located at aerodromes that fall under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2018/1139.*
- (b) Where relevant, the CSs and GM for aerodrome design (CS-ADR-DSN) apply to the aerodrome areas and infrastructure used by helicopters.*
- (c) Unless otherwise specified, the specifications for a colour referred to within CS-HPT-DSN should be those contained in CS-ADR-DSN, and;*

GM1 HPT-DSN.A.010 Applicability

The CSs and the related GM are applicable to the design of surface-level VFR heliports, including those that are not open for public use or for commercial air transport, which are located at aerodromes that fall under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2018/1139.

2.2 Any aerodrome within the State that is currently certificated within the scope of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139, should manage any amendment to the Certification Basis (in relation to the introduction of a Surface-level VFR Heliport) through their Management of Change process as currently approved by the Competent Authority in accordance with EASA ADR.OR.B.040 Changes.

3. Nationally Licensed Heliports within the State

3.1 Nationally licensed Heliports within the State, are subject to the licensing requirements of Irish Aviation Authority (Aerodrome and Visual Ground Aids) Order, S.I. No 355 of 2008.

Sec 5. (1) *An aircraft shall not take-off from or land at any place in the State save at:*

- (d) in the case of a rotorcraft or balloon, not being used for public transport,*

any place where the aircraft may take-off or land without undue hazard to persons or property and in respect of which the owner or occupier of that place shall have given permission for such use, except that, in the case of a rotorcraft, where that place is of an elevated construction, located on the roof of a building or a structure, it shall also be licensed by the Authority under this Order for such use by that rotorcraft; and

- (e) *in the case of a rotorcraft or balloon used for public transport and so authorised by the Authority, any place where the aircraft may take off or land without undue hazard to persons or property and in respect of which the owner or occupier of that place shall have given permission for such use, except that, in the case of a rotorcraft, where that place is of an elevated construction, located on the roof of a building or a structure, it shall also be licensed by the Authority under this Order for such use by that rotorcraft.*

- 3.2 There is currently no licensing requirement for surface level heliports (excluding those located at Aerodromes that fall under the scope of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139), within the State, except where there is a requirement for the heliport to be used by rotorcraft engaged in instruction in flying.

However, provision is made for the use of an unlicensed heliport by rotorcraft engaged in instruction in flying, under certain conditions, in accordance with IAA Aeronautical Notice T.15: Use of An Unlicensed Aerodrome by Aircraft Engaged in Instruction in Flying.

Further information on IAA Aeronautical Notice T.15: “Use of An Unlicensed Aerodrome by Aircraft Engaged in Instruction in Flying” can be found on the IAA website at:

[T.15 - “Use of An Unlicensed Aerodrome by Aircraft Engaged in Instruction in Flying”](#)

- 3.3 An IAA Heliport Licence is required for all elevated heliports within the State.
- 3.4 For further information on the heliport licensing process and requirements please contact: aerodromes@iaa.ie
- 3.5 All nationally licensed heliports within the State shall comply with the Standards and Recommended Practices of ICAO Annex 14, Volume II, Heliports.

4. Heliport VFR Operations at Night

- 4.1 IAA Aeronautical Notice R.03 VFR Flights at Night in the Shannon FIR, Section 2. Conditions for Night Operations at Aerodromes and other Locations, states:

Unless an Aerodrome or other Location has been approved for night operations, aircraft, rotorcraft, balloons or gliders are prohibited from taking-off or landing at night, except:

(2.1.1) Where an emergency landing is necessary to ensure safety.

(2.1.2) The aerodrome or location has been licensed or otherwise prescribed for night operations by the Authority.

4.2 Therefore, regardless of the licensing status of a heliport, any proposal to conduct VFR operations at night requires that the heliport be prescribed for use during night operations by the Authority.

4.3 Further information on IAA Aeronautical Notice R.03 - "VFR Flights at Night in the Shannon FIR", can be found on the IAA website at:

[R.03 - "VFR Flights at Night in the Shannon FIR"](#)