
IRELAND

SAFETY REGULATION DIVISION
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY
TIMES BUILDING
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AERONAUTICAL NOTICE

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OPERATION OF HELICOPTERS AT OPERATING SITES

This Notice reminds helicopter operators and pilots, as applicable, (hereinafter 'the operator') of their responsibilities when planning operations into or out of operating sites.

Operating sites must be adequate for the type of aircraft and operation concerned. The specific rules regarding the use of operating sites are detailed in the [EU Air Operations Regulation](#) (particularly CAT.OP.MPA.105, SPA.HEMS, NCC.OP.100, NCO.OP.100, SPO.OP.100 and AMCs, as applicable). Operators should make themselves familiar with these rules as applicable to their intended flight.

Additionally, when considering operating sites (including infrequent or temporary sites), the operator should also take account of the following:

- 1) The permission of the person or body owning or otherwise responsible for the operating site must be clearly obtained (i.e. not assumed) for the operation concerned and its frequency.
- 2) A site that the operator or pilot considers satisfactory must take account of the applicable performance requirements of the aircraft and site location and characteristics.
- 3) The characteristics of the site such as:
 - a. overall dimensions of the site;
 - b. location and height of relevant obstacles to the approach and take-off profiles, and manoeuvring area;
 - c. approach and take-off flight paths;
 - d. site suitability with reference to aircraft performance;
 - e. provision for the control of third parties on the ground and control of loose objects possibly damaging the aircraft or third parties (if applicable);
 - f. surface condition (level or sloping ground);
 - g. lighting (if applicable); and
 - h. other useful information, for example, details of local ATS agency and frequency, and site access by rescue services.

Note 1: Where an operating site is of an elevated construction located on a roof of a building or a structure, it must be licensed by this Authority in accordance with S.I. No.355 of 2008 IAA (Aerodromes & Visual Ground Aids) Order, 2008. Operators intending to operate to such licenced elevated sites will require a specific approval from this Authority regarding operating procedures and aircraft performance requirements.

Note 2: The operator of any helicopter should be conscious that a helicopter might cause some upset to persons or animals in view of its characteristics, even if its operation in a particular instance does not pose a hazard to persons or property. Furthermore, injury to livestock or other animals caused by their reaction to helicopter noise may constitute “damage to property” in law and could result, therefore, in legal action against the registered owner or operator concerned.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Notice:

‘Operator’, means any legal or natural person or organisation proposing to engage in or offering to engage in an aircraft operation; and who or which, in relation to any particular aircraft, has, at the relevant time, the responsibility for the management of that aircraft.

‘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.

**Chief Executive
Irish Aviation Authority**