

Aviation Safety



GA Passenger Safety Considerations

Safety Leaflet



IGA 8

The purpose of this Safety Leaflet is to make General Aviation pilots aware of their obligation to ensure that any passengers to be carried onboard a private aircraft are adequately briefed, equipped and prepared prior to the flight commencing.

Despite the fact that in this modern world most people will have been on board a civil airliner at some stage in their life, this experience does not adequately prepare the un-initiated for their first flight onboard a light aeroplane or helicopter.

In order to ensure that the GA passenger's experience is both safe and pleasurable it is important for the pilot to ensure that he thoroughly briefs his passengers prior to embarking and also onboard the aircraft.

By carrying out a briefing based on the items set out in the table below, not only will the pilot be complying with his legal obligations but he will be creating an environment which should ensure that his passengers have a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable experience.

Phase of Flight	Recommended Actions
Planning	<p>Ensure that you carry out thorough planning paying particular attention to weight and balance considerations taking into consideration the weight of your passengers and their baggage.</p> <p>Ensure that you carry out thorough performance calculations based on the weights established above and be aware that take-off and landing distances adequate for a solo flight may not be sufficient for a flight at higher weights.</p> <p>Check your aircraft insurance policy to ensure that your passengers are appropriately covered.</p>
On The Ramp	<p>Prior to entering the ramp area explain the smoking/no-smoking policy to your passengers.</p> <p>Advise your passengers to switch off or set to silent any mobile phones or PEDs.</p> <p>Make sure that your passengers are not carrying in their baggage or on their person any items that could be classified as Dangerous Goods e.g. matches, lighters, magnetic material, etc.</p> <p>Make sure that your passengers are properly escorted/supervised on the ramp and that they have been made aware of potential hazards such as turning propellers/rotors.</p> <p>If possible provide all passengers with Hi-viz vests or make sure that at least one member of the party is appropriately equipped.</p> <p>Make sure that any children to be carried are properly supervised.</p>
Pre-flight Briefing	<p>Carry out a thorough pre-flight briefing covering as a minimum the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location and use of seatbelts/shoulder straps/safety harnesses. 2. Normal and emergency operation of all exits. 3. Actions and evacuation plan in event of an emergency. 4. Location and use of emergency equipment e.g. fire extinguisher. 5. Importance of keeping clear of engine/flight controls/equipment controls. 6. Use of headsets and procedure for listening before talking. 7. Point out items for passenger comfort such as heater/fresh air vents. 8. Encourage your passengers to report any other traffic that is observed. 9. Make sure that your passengers are aware of the location of 'sick bags'. <p>If you are making an over-water flight then ensure that passengers are equipped with and briefed on life jackets and life-raft (if carried).</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">In-flight</p>	<p>Keep talking to your passengers to make them feel at ease and encourage them to ask questions.</p> <p>Be aware of the effect that manoeuvring the aircraft harshly can have on your passengers particularly if they are ‘first time’ fliers.</p> <p>Be aware of the possibility of passengers experiencing problems with pressure changes in the ear and if possible try and limit the rates of climb/descent to not greater than 300-500 ft/min.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">After Landing</p>	<p>Once you have landed make sure that the passengers know how to unfasten their seatbelts/harnesses and safely exit the aircraft avoiding potential hazards and also without damaging delicate parts of the aircraft such as pitot tubes, struts, control surfaces, etc.</p> <p>As with the journey out to the aircraft, make sure that your passengers are safely escorted away from the ramp area.</p> <p>If you are going to be posing for the normal must have photo or ‘selfie’ make sure that the immediate area around the aircraft is safe and there will be no hazard posed by any starting/taxiing aircraft.</p>

Passenger Considerations

If you are to be a passenger on a light aircraft there are some actions that you should take into consideration prior to embarking on a flight:

1. Prior to embarking on any flight it is important to establish that the flight will be ‘legal’. To this end it is important to be aware that if you have been asked to make any form of payment for the flight then the owner/pilot of the aircraft must hold the appropriate licences and certificates, issued by the Irish Aviation Authority and the Irish Commission for Aviation Regulation, to be able to engage in commercial air transport operations. If you are in any doubt then contact the IAA via the details given below.
2. Ensure that you wear appropriate clothing/footwear, remembering that as the aircraft climbs higher the temperature onboard the aircraft can fall quite quickly. It is also important to note that some materials such as nylon and other synthetics are highly flammable. Bare limbs are particularly at risk in the event of a fire.
3. It is not advisable to go flying if you are taking any form of medication, check with your GP to see if your medication is compatible with flying.
4. You should never go flying on a light aircraft if you have consumed large quantities of alcohol or have been using any form of recreational substances. To do so may affect your conduct in the aircraft and endanger the safety of others onboard.
5. Once you are onboard the aircraft listen carefully to the briefing from the pilot and if you do not understand the briefing, or are uncertain about any aspect of it, ask the pilot to explain it again.
6. It is important not to distract the pilot if he is engaged in communications on the radio or carrying out a particular manoeuvre, however, be patient and once he is finished you can chat or ask questions.
7. If you are unhappy at any stage during the flight make the pilot aware and he will attempt to allay your concerns or explain what is happening.
8. Prior to getting airborne on a flight make sure that you have been given the information/instructions listed in the table on the back page of this safety leaflet.
9. Most importantly, go off and enjoy the experience of flying on a light aircraft!



Flight Operations Department
 Irish Aviation Authority
 Tel: 01 603 1148 or e-mail: fod@iaa.ie.

CHECKLIST FOR PASSENGERS

Have you been told or made aware of the following:

IS MY FLIGHT LEGAL	
Have you been asked to make a payment of any kind for the flight (See note below)	
Ask the pilot to confirm that the aircraft insurance is valid and will cover the flight	
Ask the pilot to confirm that the aircraft is fully airworthy and that the certificates/maintenance records are in date	
HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD HOW TO USE	
The seat belts/safety harnesses	
The seats including controls/locking devices	
The normal and emergency door mechanisms	
The headset and intercom system	
The fire extinguisher	
The life jackets and life-raft (if carried for overwater flights)	
HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD WHERE TO FIND	
The first aid kit	
The fire extinguisher	
The life jackets and life-raft (if carried for overwater flights)	
HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD WHAT TO DO	
In the event of a forced landing	
In the event of a ditching onto water	

IT IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT HAS MADE YOU AWARE OF ALL OF THESE ITEMS AND ACTIONS.

NOTE: If you are being asked to make a payment for a flight, you can check on the website of the IAA (www.iaa.ie) or the CAR (www.aviationreg.ie) for the current list of Licensed Air Carriers operating in Ireland.