

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR – AVIATION MANAGEMENT

AIRCRAFT RENTAL AGREEMENT PROVISIONS: SUPPLEMENT NO. 7

SPECIAL USE – HELICOPTER OFFSHORE PLATFORM/VESSEL LANDINGS
AND EXTENDED OVER WATER

Definitions

Over water: Helicopter operations beyond power off gliding distance to shore but within 50 nautical miles of any shoreline.

Extended Over water: Helicopter operation over water at a horizontal distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline and more than 50 nautical miles from an offshore heliport structure.

Platform/Vessel Landings: Helicopter operations requiring takeoff/landing on an offshore heliport structure or a marine vessel.

B8.7.1 GENERAL – Refer to Section B1

B8.7.2 FLIGHT OPERATIONS

B8.7.2.1 Minimum weather conditions for VFR flights are defined as: Onshore, ceiling 300 feet and visibility 1 mile; Offshore, ceiling 500 feet and visibility 3 miles.

B8.7.2.2 Multiengine helicopters may be dispatched for night flights. Aircraft shall be operated in accordance with the vendor's Operations Specifications for Instrument Flight Rules (IFR).

B8.7.3 PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

B8.7.3.1 **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005:** A helicopter instrument rating; or an airline transport pilot (ATP) certificate with category and class rating, not limited to VFR.

B8.7.3.2 Experience for platform/vessel landings: 200 hours PIC in helicopter operations offshore including landing on offshore heliport structures or vessel heliports, or 100 hours PIC in offshore operations if 50 hours of offshore operation was accomplished within the previous 12 months.

B8.7.3.3 Pilots may be required to demonstrate their ability during an agency evaluation flight.

B8.7.3.4 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

B8.7.3.4.1 For platform/vessel landings: Aviator's flight helmet, consisting of a one-piece hard shell made of polycarbonate, Kevlar, carbon fiber, or fiberglass, must cover the top, sides (including the temple area and to below the ears), and the rear of the head. The helmet shall be equipped with a chinstrap and shall be appropriately adjusted for proper fit. Flight helmets for helicopter usage must conform to a national certifying agency standard, such as DOT, Snell-95, SFI, or an appropriate military standard, and be compatible with required avionics (see section B8.7.5.3). "Shorty" (David Clark style) helmets are not approved. Flight helmets currently meeting this requirement are the SPH-3, SPH-4, SPH-5, SPH-4B, SPH-8, HGU-56 and HGU-84. Helmets designed for use in fixed wing aircraft do not provide adequate protection for helicopter occupants and are not approved for helicopter use.

B8.7.4 Equipment Requirements

B8.7.4.1 A first aid kit containing items specified in Exhibit 4 shall be furnished by the Vendor and carried aboard the aircraft on all flights.

B8.7.4.2 A survival kit containing items specified in Exhibit 4 shall be furnished by the Vendor and carried aboard the aircraft on all flights.

B8.7.4.3 Emergency flotation gear (pop-out) or Standard flotation gear (fixed floats).

B8.7.4.4 Extended over water operations require emergency equipment identified in 14 CFR 135.167.

B8.7.4.5 Flight instruments for low visibility flight conditions, including gyroscopic bank and pitch indicator (ADI), directional gyro, vertical speed indicator, and rate of turn indicator or skid/slip indicator or inclinometer.

B8.7.5 Avionics Requirements

B8.7.5.1 One panel mounted GPS shall be permanently installed in the aircraft. The GPS shall reference latitude and longitude coordinates for aircraft positioning, utilize an approved, fixed, external aircraft antenna, and be powered by the aircraft electrical system. The GPS installation shall be FAA-approved (or approval pending). Hand-held and/or marine type equipment is not acceptable.

B8.7.5.2 An intercommunications system (ICS) shall be provided for the pilot, observer/co-pilot, and all required crewmember positions. ICS audio shall mix with, but not mute, selected receiver audio. ICS sidetone audio shall be provided for the earphones corresponding with the microphone in use. The ICS audio output shall be free of excessive distortion, hum, noise, and crosstalk, and shall be amplified sufficiently to facilitate ease of use in a noisy cockpit/cabin environment.

B8.7.5.3 Microphones, PTT's, & Jacks

B8.7.5.3.1 The system shall be designed for operation with 600 ohm earphones and carbon-equivalent, noise-canceling boom type microphones (Gentex electret type Model 5060-2, military dynamic type M-87/AIC with CE-100 TR preamplifier, or equivalent). The pilot position ~~only~~ may be configured for low impedance (dynamic) operation.

B8.7.5.3.2 Push-to-talk (PTT) operation: separate PTT switches shall be provided for radio transmitter and ICS microphone operation at the pilot and observer positions. ICS PTT switches shall be provided for the other ICS-equipped positions. The pilot's PTT switches shall be mounted on the cyclic control. The PTT switch(es) for all other positions shall be mounted on the cord to the earphone/microphone connector.

B8.7.5.3.3 All earphone/microphone jacks in the aircraft (except the pilot's) shall be U-92A/U (single/female) type, which shall accept U-174/U type plugs.

FIRST AID & SURVIVAL KITS

These are minimum required items for Special Use Activities in the United States and U.S. Possessions. Additional survival kit items are required for flight activities conducted in Canada and Alaska.

Minimum First Aid Kit Items		
Each kit must be in a dust-proof and moisture-proof container. The kit must be readily accessible to the pilot and passengers.		
Item	Passenger Seats 0-9	Passenger Seats 10-50
Adhesive bandage strips, (3"long)	8	16
Antiseptic or alcohol wipes (pkts)	10	20
Bandage compresses, 4"	2	4
Triangular bandage, 40" (sling)	2	4
Roller bandage, 4"x 5 yds (gauze)	2	4
Adhesive tape, 1"x 5 yds (std roll)	1	2
Bandage scissors	1	1
Body Fluids Barrier kit:	1	1
2 - pair latex gloves		
1 - face shield		
1 - mouth-to-mouth barrier		
1 - protective gown		
2 - antiseptic towelettes		
1 - biohazard disposable bag		
NOTE Splints are recommended if space permits.		

MINIMUM AIRCRFT SURVIVAL KIT ITEMS

These are minimum required items for special use activities in the conterminous United States (including Alaska) and U.S. possessions.

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| Fire Starter (can be two boxes of matches in a waterproof container) | Magnesium fire starter |
| One knife | Signal Mirror |
| Signal Flares (six each occupant) | Food (two days emergency rations per occupant) |
| Candles | Water purification tablets |
| Collapsible water bag | Whistle |
| Space Blanket (one per occupant) | Nylon rope or parachute cord (50 feet) |

These are additional items for the contiguous U.S. and U.S. Possessions:

Water (one quart per occupant required when operating over areas without adequate drinking water)

These are additional items for Alaska only:

- Rations for each occupant sufficient to sustain life for one week
- One axe or hatchet
- One first aid kit
- One mosquito headnet for each occupant
- Insect repellent
- An assortment of tackle such as hooks, flies, lines, sinkers, etc.

OCTOBER 15 TO APRIL 1

- One pair of snowshoes
- One sleeping bag
- One wool blanket or equivalent for each occupant over four years of age

Note: Operators of multiengine aircraft licensed to carry more than 15 passengers need carry only the food, mosquito nets, and signaling equipment at all times other than the period from October 15 to April 1 of each year, when two sleeping bags and one blanket for every two passengers shall also be carried. All of the above emergency rations and equipment requirements are the minimum requirements under current law.