



**United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

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To: All DOI Aviation Operations
From: Michael A. Martin, Acting Director, OAS
Subject: R-44 Helicopters

We currently have several R-44s in the procurement system and continue to have an increased interest in this aircraft for resource work. There is a concern that the end user may expect the same or similar performance and payloads as the light turbine aircraft that many are use to. This bulletin is to familiarize the user with R-44 characteristics and operating limitations.

- The R-44 is powered by a Textron Lycoming normally aspirated piston engine, rated at 225 horsepower.
- Three (3) passenger seats. Due to mission requirements and/or environmental conditions, the number of passengers may be less than seats available.
- Average equipped weight per aircraft is approximately 1,490 lb.
- Maximum gross weight is 2,400 lb.
- Fuel consumption is 15 gph of 100-octane low lead aviation gasoline (100LL AVGAS).
- Fixed weight reduction for load calculation purposes has been established at 75 lb.
- Allowable payload example: Pilot @ 200 lb, fuel for 1 hour and 30 minutes plus reserve is 171 lb, survival kit @ 20 lb = 391 lb.

Maximum gross weight:	2400.
Pilot, fuel, survival kit:	-391.
Aircraft equipped weight:	-1491.
<u>Fixed weight reduction:</u>	<u>-75.</u>
Allowable payload:	444.

These figures are based on sea level performance. Increases in altitude and temperature will decrease the allowable payload.

Vigilance must be exercised when operating this aircraft in any of the following conditions:

- At or near maximum gross weight (due to reduced aircraft performance)
- More than two passengers (due to reduced aircraft performance, weight, and reduced fuel supply)
- At pressure altitudes above 4,000 feet (due to reduced aircraft performance)

The allowable payload figures are provided as an example only. Each mission must be planned using the performance and weight and balance data contained in the Pilot's Operating Handbook (POH) for the specific aircraft being used.

Michael A. Martin, Acting Director