



Standardised European Rules of the Air – Search and Rescue Operations in Accordance with an Air Operator’s Certificate

1. The Department for Enterprise (‘the Department’), in exercise of its powers under Article 9 of the Civil Aviation (Rules of the Air) Order 2021¹, exempts the operator and the pilot in command of any helicopter (‘the helicopter’) flying for the purpose of a Search and Rescue (SAR) operational or training flight in accordance with the terms of an national air operator’s certificate from the requirements of SERA specified in paragraph 2 and subject to the conditions in paragraph 3.
2. The specified requirements of SERA in paragraph 1 are:
 - (a) any of the rules of SERA at a SAR operating site;
 - (b) SERA.3105 (Minimum heights);
 - (c) SERA.5001, Table S5-1, 5 km (***) (VMC visibility class G airspace);
 - (d) SERA.5005(c)(3) (Visual Flight Rules flights at night – VMC visibility, distance from cloud and cloud ceiling minima);
 - (e) SERA.5005(c)(5) (Visual Flight Rules flights at night – minimum altitudes);
 - (f) SERA.5005(f) (Visual Flight Rules flights by day – minimum heights);
 - (g) SERA.5010(b)(2) (Special VFR – Flight visibility); and
 - (h) SERA.5015(b) (Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) – Rules Applicable to all IFR Flights – Minimum levels).
3. On any flight pursuant to this exemption, the following conditions apply:
 - (a) the pilot in command of the aircraft shall only depart from the specified requirements of SERA at paragraph 2 to the extent necessary to achieve the purpose of the flight;
 - (b) the operator of the helicopter shall specify in the SAR operations manual the procedures and minima applicable to SAR operational and training flights;
 - (c) throughout all flights pursuant to this permission and exemption, no persons shall be carried other than the flight crew members, SAR Technical Crew Members, authorised persons and other persons directly involved in the SAR flight and whom it is necessary to carry for that purpose; and
 - (d) the operator shall establish a procedure in the operations manual for the authorisation of authorised persons which must be approved by the CAA.
4. In this exemption :
 - (a) ‘Search and Rescue (SAR) operational or training flights’ are those operations in support of the UK Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA);

¹ SD No. 2021/0184

- (b) 'a SAR operating site' is the position of the survivor(s) or a site selected by the pilot in command for the purpose of conducting a rescue;
- (c) 'authorised person' and 'pilot in command' have the same meaning as in Article 167 of the Air Navigation (Isle of Man) Order 2015²;
- (d) 'flight crew member' has the same meaning as in Article 2 of SERA; and
- (e) 'SAR Technical Crew member' means a member of the SAR crew other than a flight crew member who is assigned to a helicopter SAR flight for the purpose of operating specific aircraft and role equipment, assisting the flight crew members during the mission and attending to any person in need of medical assistance.

5. This permission has effect from **01 August 2021** until it is revoked.

Signed:

Date: 1 August 2021



Colin Gill
Deputy Director of Civil Aviation
Isle of Man Civil Aviation Administration
Ground Floor, Viscount House
Isle of Man Airport, IM9 2AS

² SI 2015 No 870 as amended by SI 2016 No 155, SI 2016 No 765 and SI 2020 No 1280