European Union Aviation Safety Agency

FAQ n.142993

FAQs:

Higher Airspace Operations (HAO)

Question:

Are there HAO already in operation in Europe?

Answer:

Yes, certain types of higher airspace operations are already taking place in Europe, mainly in experimental, research, or limited operational contexts. These include high-altitude research aircraft, High-Altitude Long-Endurance unmanned aircraft systems, and high-altitude balloon operations conducted for scientific, environmental monitoring, or communication purposes. However, such activities are currently managed on a case-by-case basis under existing national or ad-hoc regulatory arrangements, as there is no dedicated, harmonised European regulatory framework for Higher Airspace Operations yet. Large-scale commercial HAO operations do not yet exist in Europe.

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Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/142993