



Terms of Reference

for a rulemaking task

Certification requirements for VFR heliports located at aerodromes falling under the scope of Basic Regulation

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Applicability		Process map	
Affected Regulations and Decisions:	CS-ADR-DSN	Concept Paper:	No
Affected stakeholders:	Aerodrome operators, Authorities	Rulemaking group:	No
Driver/origin:	ICAO Annex 14 Volume 2, 4th Edition, July 2013	RIA type:	Light
Reference:	N/A	Technical consultation during NPA drafting:	Yes
		Publication date of the NPA:	2015/Q1
		Duration of NPA consultation:	3 months
		Review group:	TBD
		Focussed consultation:	Yes
		Publication date of the Decision:	2015/Q4



1. Issue and reasoning for regulatory change

Amended Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 (hereafter referred to as the 'Basic Regulation'), extended the responsibilities of the European Aviation Safety Agency (hereafter referred to as the 'Agency') to the areas of ATM/ANS and aerodromes. This new responsibility mandated the Agency to prepare Implementing Rules in support of the European Commission, as well as to issue Certification Specifications (CS) and Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM) for the design, certification and oversight of aerodromes by the National Aviation Authorities (NAAs).

According to Article 4, paragraph 3(a) of the Basic Regulation, the scope of aerodromes subject to common rules is limited to aerodromes:

- which are open to public use;
 - which serve commercial air transport;
 - where operations using instrument approach or departure procedures are provided;
 - and
- (a) have a paved runway of 800 metres or above; or
- (b) exclusively serve helicopters.

This limits the scope of heliports to those which are either located at an aerodrome meeting the criteria above or are stand-alone heliports meeting the same set of criteria.

It had been decided to exclude the heliport aspect from the set of initial aerodrome rules and to make this subject to a later, dedicated rulemaking task. As stand-alone heliports meeting the technical criteria above, especially on instrument procedures, are not known to be operated in Europe yet, the task has been proposed to be limited to the set of VFR heliports located at an aerodrome falling under the scope of Basic Regulation.

The task at stake suggests establishing Certification Specifications and Guidance Material for those heliports by amending the Certification Specifications of Book 1 and the Related Guidance Material contained in Book 2, adopted by ED Decision 2014/013/R and, if necessary, Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material for aerodromes, adopted by ED Decision 2014/012/R.

The above requirements will fulfil the design, certification and oversight processes for aerodromes which will be performed until the end of 2017.

At an aerodrome which falls in the scope of the Basic Regulation and has more than one runway and possible heliport at least one runway should meet the criteria contained in Article 4 of the Basic Regulation. However, for other 'types' of runways or heliports at an aerodrome, it is not compulsory to meet the criteria of Article 4 of Basic Regulation, but the requirements for their design, certification and oversight should be developed.

2. Objectives

The overall objective of the task is to develop Certification Specifications and Guidance Material for design and, if necessary, Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material for certification, operation and oversight of VFR heliports located at aerodrome falling under the scope of the Basic Regulation, including the following aspects for VFR Heliports:



- Definitions and applicability;
- VFR Heliport data needed for heliport certification;
- Location requirements for;
- Physical characteristics for;
- Obstacle limitation surfaces and sectors and obstacle limitation requirements;
- Separation distances in relation to movement area and infrastructures
- Visual aids (indicators, markings, markers and lights);

All of above certification requirements shall:

- reflect the state of the art in the field of VFR heliports located at an aerodrome and take into account the applicable ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices;
- provide for the necessary flexibility;
- integrate, if applicable, best practices from among the EASA Member States or other regulatory systems (e.g. FAA and TCCA);
- be proportionate to the size, traffic, category and complexity of the aerodrome/heliport and nature and volume of operations thereon;
- take into account worldwide heliport/aerodrome operation experience, and scientific and technical progress.

3. Activities

- (a) Development of a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), as necessary and proportionate in relation to the options available;
- (b) Development of Certification Specification and Guidance Material and, if necessary, development of Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material, to include relevant requirements from ICAO Annex 14, Volume II, Heliports, Fourth edition, July 2013;
- (c) During the development of the above material Regulation (EU) No 139/2014 shall be considered.

4. Deliverables

- (a) Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA);
- (b) Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA);
- (c) Comment Response Document (CRD) and Decision.

5. Focussed consultation

Focussed consultation, during the drafting of the NPA and during the review of the comments to the NPA and drafting of the Decision, will be determined and may include:

- (a) Meetings and consultations with the stakeholder experts;



- (b) Technical workshops; and
- (c) RAG/TAGs and SSCC written consultations or dedicated meetings.

6. Profile and contribution of the rulemaking group

No.



7. Annex I: Reference documents

7.1. Affected regulations

No.

7.2. Affected decisions

No.

7.3. Reference documents

- *ICAO Annex 14, Volume II, Heliports, Fourth edition, July 2013;*
- *ICAO Annex 14, Volume I, Aerodromes, Sixth edition, July 2013;*
- *Heliport Manual (Doc 9261)*
- *Aerodrome Design Manual (Doc 9157)*
- *Airport Planning Manual (Doc 9184)*
- *Airport Services Manual (Doc 9137)*
- *Manual of Surface Movement Guidance and Control Systems (SMGCS) (Doc 9476)*
- *Stolport Manual (Doc 9150)*
- *Relevant parts of other ICAO Annexes*
- *Appropriate and relevant regulatory material from the EASA Member States.*

