



Miscellaneous

No: 1343

Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012

Publication date: 13 February 2020

General Exemption E 4999 and Permission

Standardised European Rules of the Air – Issuing VFR and SVFR Air Traffic Control Clearances to Helicopter Operations Conducted by Police, Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) and Search and Rescue (SAR) Operators.

- 1) The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), on behalf of the United Kingdom and pursuant to article 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012 ('the Standardised European Rules of the Air' (SERA)), exempts the operator and pilot in command conducting any Emergency Services Helicopter flights, including any training flights associated with these activities, and the associated Air Traffic Control Units (ATCUs) from complying with SERA.5005(b) subject to the conditions specified in paragraph 2.
- 2) The conditions specified in paragraph 1 are that, for VFR flights by Emergency Services Helicopters, including any associated training flights, taking off or landing at an aerodrome within a control zone or entering the aerodrome traffic zone or aerodrome traffic circuit:
 - a. the flights must be conducted in accordance with procedures detailed in Operator's Operations Manuals;
 - b. helicopter operators conducting SAR training flights must do so in accordance with a Letter of Agreement with the appropriate Air Traffic Service Provider; and
 - c. ATCUs must issue clearances for any such flights in accordance with procedures detailed in Civil Aviation Publication (CAP) 493, The Manual of Air Traffic Services (MATS) Part 1.
- 3) The CAA permits, under SERA.5010, Emergency Services Helicopters to be operated under, and for ATCUs to issue, a special VFR clearance other than in accordance with SERA.5010(b) and (c) subject to the conditions specified in paragraph 4.
- 4) The conditions specified in paragraph 3 are that:
 - a. the flights must be conducted in accordance with procedures detailed in Operator's Operations Manuals; and
 - b. ATCUs must issue any clearance for such flights in accordance with procedures detailed in Civil Aviation Publication (CAP) 493, The Manual of Air Traffic Services (MATS) Part 1.

- 5) In this Exemption and Permission, 'Emergency Services Helicopter' means any helicopter for the time being operated under an Air Operator Certificate or Police Air Operator Certificate granted by the CAA: for Search and Rescue operations on behalf of the UK Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA); for Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) under a SPA.HEMS approval; or in the service of a UK police authority.
- 6) This exemption supersedes Official Record Series 4 No 1222, which is revoked with effect from 2359 UTC on 25 March 2020.
- 7) This exemption and permission has effect from 26 March 2020 and remains in force until it is revoked.

D J Drake

for the Civil Aviation Authority

13 February 2020

Explanatory notes:

- 1- This exemption does not alleviate the pilot(s) in command of their responsibility to comply with the VMC criteria prescribed in SERA.5001 when operating in accordance with VFR inside controlled airspace.
- 2- Helicopter pilots operating Police, HEMS or SAR including any associated training flights will do so in accordance with their Operations Manual which prescribes visibility and distance minima for their operations. Air Traffic Control Officers are not required to know these prescribed minima.
- 3- This exemption supports the following provisions within CAP 493, the Manual of Air Traffic Services Part 1:
 - (i) Section 1, Chapter 2, Paragraphs 8B.1 and 8B.2,
 - (ii) Section 2, Chapter 1, Paragraphs 6A.1 and 6A.2; and
 - (iii) Section 3, Chapter 1, Paragraphs 8.5 and 8.6.