



Miscellaneous

No: 1222

Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012

Publication date: 21 April 2017

General Exemption E 4452 and Permission

Standardised European Rules of the Air – Issuing VFR and SVFR Air Traffic Control Clearances to helicopter operations conducted by the Police, Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS), Search And Rescue (SAR) and SAR training flights or flights in support of the maintenance of the national infrastructure.

- 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 commander conducting any Emergency Services Helicopter flights, including any training flights associated with these activities, and the associated Air Traffic Control Units 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 and approved by the CAA;
 - 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. Air Traffic Control Units 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 Civil Aviation Authority permits, under SERA.5010, Air Traffic Control Units to issue a special VFR clearance to an Emergency Services Helicopter other than in accordance with SERA.5010(b) subject to the condition specified in paragraph 4.
- 4) The condition specified in paragraph 3 is that:
 - a. Air Traffic Control Unit 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:
 - a. 'Emergency Services Helicopter' means any helicopter for the time being operated under an Air Operator Certificate or Police Air Operator Certificate granted by the Civil Aviation Authority for Search and Rescue operations or for a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) or in the service of a police authority or in support of the maintenance of the national infrastructure.
- 6) This exemption supersedes Official Record Series 4 No 1215 which is revoked.

- 7) This exemption has effect from 21 April 2017 and remains in force until it is revoked.

M Swan
for the Civil Aviation Authority

21 April 2017

Explanatory notes:

- 1- Helicopter pilots operating Police, HEMS, SAR or SAR training flights, or flights in support of the maintenance of the national infrastructure will be conducting their flights, in accordance with their approved Operations Manual which prescribes visibility and distance minima for their operations. Air Traffic Control Officers are not required to know these prescribed minima.
- 2- 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.