

Issued: 5 April 2016

Balloons: Congested Area take-off, Becalmed Landing and Open-air Assembly Permission and Exemption

This Information Notice contains information that is for guidance and/or awareness.

Recipients are asked to ensure that this Information Notice is copied to all members of their staff who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	Not primarily affected
Air Traffic:	Not primarily affected
Airspace:	Not primarily affected
Airworthiness:	Not primarily affected
Flight Operations:	All Balloon Owners and Operators, Balloon AOC holders
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	All Balloonists

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Information Notice (IN) is to alert all balloonists of the publication of a new permission and exemption [ORS4 1157](#) which allows any hot-air balloon (the 'balloon') to take off or land within, and to fly over, a congested area of a city, town or settlement below a height of 1,000 feet above the highest fixed obstacle within a horizontal radius of 600 metres of the aircraft, subject to the conditions specified in the permission and exemption.
- 1.2 It also allows the balloon to take off or land within 1,000 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons, subject to the conditions specified in the permission and exemption.

2 Scope

- 2.1 [ORS4 1157](#) has been drafted to combine several operating conditions into one permission and exemption specifically for balloon pilots and operators. It includes specific conditions that need to be met in order to take advantage of it. Failure to comply with the conditions means that permission and exemption will be invalid in relation to the flight in question and the operator and balloon pilot may be committing an offence. It is aimed at all balloon pilots but in particular it is intended to provide commercial passenger balloons with greater flexibility when operating near congested areas and open air assemblies.

3 Further Information

- 3.1 This information notice should be read in conjunction with [ORS4 1157](#).

4 Queries

- 4.1 Any queries or requests for further guidance as a result of this communication should be addressed to ga@caa.co.uk.

5 Cancellation

- 5.1 This Information Notice will remain in force until further notice.