



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local Government**

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION OF ADVENTURE FLIGHTS**

### **1.0 Purpose of the Guidelines**

These guidelines have been developed to provide assistance to aircraft operators who wish to apply for a permit for the operation of adventure flights. Operators would need to demonstrate compliance with the criteria mentioned below when applying for a permit. Conditions may also be imposed.

These guidelines do not provide an exhaustive list of criteria or conditions that may be imposed on an adventure flight operator.

### **2.0 Criteria to be Considered / Conditions Imposed**

#### **2.1 Demonstration of Community Support**

For propeller aircraft with a MTOW above 1500kgs, or jet aircraft of any MTOW, evidence of community support would be required. Experience suggests that there are some areas of Australia that are much more suitable for adventure operations than others. A consultative approach to the presence of an adventure flight operation in an area, which takes into account the views of the local community through the local councils, is the best way for adventure flight operators to find friendly home bases. The criteria would require that this occur before a permit is issued.

Permission would be granted on the basis of support expressed by the airport and/or council by way of a letter of support. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department) would accept letters of support from the owner of the airport and the local council in which the airport sits (or simply the local council if it owns the airport). The letters would include the conditions that the council is setting on operations (eg. flight heights, areas to avoid, hours of operation, number of flights permitted per week). The letter of support needs to acknowledge that the council and/or airport are responsible for monitoring any complaints that arise from the proposed operation.

After receipt of a letter the Department will talk to the airport and/or council to confirm their support. The Department will make it clear to the airport owner and the council that they are to manage community reaction to the flights. The permit is granted subject to the aircraft operator complying with the conditions set by Council. The Department will revoke a permit if Council/the Airport inform us that they no longer support the operation of adventure flights from their airport.



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#### **2.2 Flying Operations**

In addition to any conditions that are incorporated in the letter of support the following conditions will also apply:

- the aircraft may not be flown over the Sydney Basin area unless participating in a sanctioned public airshow;
- the aircraft must maintain an altitude of not less than 5,000 feet above ground level when overflying national parks and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area;
- at airports other than the nominated Airport the aircraft may only be operated for bona fide airshow purposes. Any other flying activity permitted for the aircraft is limited to essential positioning, training and maintenance flights that are directly associated with its operation at airshows.

#### **2.3 Movements per Week**

The aircraft may only be operated for an agreed number of movements per week.

#### **2.4 Hours of Operation**

The aircraft may only be operated during daylight hours unless otherwise specified in the letter of support.

#### **2.5 Noise Abatement Procedures**

The aircraft must comply with noise abatement procedures that apply at any airport or aerodrome where the aircraft is to be operated. The operator of the aircraft will be responsible for compliance with those procedures. In addition, the operator is to ensure that:

- the aircraft avoids residential areas as far as possible;
- if it is not possible to avoid these areas, the aircraft must be at an altitude of not less than 5,000 feet above ground level when overflying those areas, unless taking off or landing.

#### **2.6 Compliance with Safety and Air Traffic Directions**

Any conditions on operation of the aircraft which are specified under other Regulations, Orders or Instructions administered by Airservices Australia or the Civil Aviation Safety Authority must also be observed. A copy of the permission must be carried in the aircraft at all times, included in Operational Documentation (either attached to the CofA, the Flight Manual, or the Operations Manual).



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#### **2.7 Permit Validity**

A permit is valid for a period of one (1) year from date of issue unless:

- there is a change of owner or operator of the aircraft; or
- the expression of support issued by the council expires, or is earlier withdrawn or revoked by the same.

#### **3.0 Summation**

The Department will approve permission to conduct adventure flight operations provided that the criteria mentioned above are addressed and conditions, as detailed on the permit, are met. The Department may revoke a permit if a condition is breached or if council inform the Department that they no longer support the operation of adventure flights from their airport.

Further guidance can be obtained by contacting the Aviation Environment Branch of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

#### **Contact Details:**

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