

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 1/21

CHANGES TO THE PUBLICATION OF HELIPORT SAFETY AREA SURFACE TYPES

The purpose of this aeronautical information circular (AIC) is to inform all heliport operators of the change initiated by Transport Canada to the *Canada Flight Supplement* (CFS) GEN (General) section regarding the publication of safety area surface types.

To avoid inconsistencies between the revised CFS GEN section and multiple heliport sites, NAV CANADA will remove all safety area surface types without any action required from the heliport operators or aeronautical data originators (ADO).

In addition, Transport Canada will be reaching out to all heliport operators to ensure that the changes are understood to prevent any perceived error in publication by operators.

Background

The safety area of a heliport is an obstacle-free area surrounding the final approach and takeoff area (FATO) to allow for helicopters inadvertently straying within the FATO confines during landings or take-offs. While the safety area may appear to be load supporting, it is not intended for landing, therefore information conveyed regarding surface type could be seen as misleading and provide a false sense of security.

The revised text in the CFS GEN section that no longer includes surface types for safety areas is provided below:

HELI DATA

At all heliports the safety area is an obstacle free area that is considered non-supporting and no surface type will be indicated.

At elevated or rooftop heliports the FATO may be non-supporting and will be indicated if the condition exists.

Heliport Data will be published based on three possible scenarios:

1. FATO & TLOF (where FATO and TLOF are embedded): FATO dimensions and surface type, TLOF dimensions and surface type. May be followed by Safety Area dimensions.

Example:

HELI DATA	FATO 85' dia CONC TLOF 30' dia CONC Safety Area 144' x 100'
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2. FATO/TLOF (where FATO and TLOF are coincidental [same size]): FATO/TLOF dimensions and surface type. May be followed by Safety Area dimensions.

Example:

HELI DATA	FATO/TLOF 60' x 60' ASPH Safety Area 74' x 74'
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3. FATO where TLOF is not coincidental: FATO dimensions and surface type. May be followed by Safety Area dimensions.

Example:

HELI DATA	FATO 85' dia CONC Safety Area 144' x 100'
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The above dimensions may be followed by:

- Heliport restrictions and maximum helicopter overall length
- Parking Pad dimensions, surface type, and pad restrictions
- Type of elevated heliport where applicable

Example:

HELI DATA	FATO 85' dia CONC TLOF 30' dia CONC Safety Area 144' x 100' 20,500 lbs Max heli overall length 57' Parking Pad 1: 30' dia ASPH 11,400 lbs Parking Pad 2: 40' dia METAL 20,500 lbs Parking Pad 3: 40' dia GRASS 11,400 lbs
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This change will take effect 25 February 2021 at 0901 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The appropriate aeronautical publications will be amended. This AIC will expire on 31 December 2021.

For further information, please contact:

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