



Miscellaneous

No: 1527

UK Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012

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General Exemption E5648

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**Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA) – Search and Rescue Operations in Accordance with an Air Operator’s Certificate**

**Background**

- 1) This Exemption is issued to allow alleviation from the specified requirements of SERA for Search and Rescue training and operational flights.

**Interpretation**

- 2) In this Exemption, references to EU regulations are to those regulations as retained and amended in UK domestic law under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and are referenced as “UK Regulation (EU) year/number” or “UK Regulation (EU) No. number/year”.
- 3) “(UK) SERA” means the Annex to UK Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012, the ‘(UK) Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA)’, and references to SERA followed by a number mean the corresponding provision within SERA.
- 4) In this Exemption:
  - a) ‘Search and Rescue (SAR) operational or training flights’ are those operations in support of the UK Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA);
  - b) ‘a SAR operating site’ is the position of the survivor(s) or a site selected by the pilot in command for the purpose of conducting a rescue;
  - c) ‘authorised person’ and ‘pilot in command’ have the same meaning as in Schedule 1 of the Air Navigation Order 2016;
  - d) ‘flight crew member’ has the same meaning as in Article 2 of SERA; and
  - e) ‘SAR Technical Crew member’ means a member of the SAR crew other than a flight crew member who is assigned to a helicopter SAR flight for the purpose of operating specific aircraft and role equipment, assisting the flight crew members during the mission and attending to any person in need of medical assistance.

**Exemption**

- 5) The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), pursuant to Article 4 of UK Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012 (‘the Standardised European Rules of the Air’ (SERA)), exempts the operator and the pilot in command of any helicopter (‘the helicopter’) flying for the purpose of a Search and Rescue (SAR) operational or training flight in accordance with the terms of a national air operator’s

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certificate from the requirements of SERA specified in paragraph 6 and subject to the conditions in paragraph 7.

- 6) The specified requirements of SERA in paragraph 5 are:
- a) any of the rules of SERA at a SAR operating site;
  - b) SERA.3105 (Minimum heights);
  - c) SERA.5001, Table S5-1, 5 km [7] (VMC visibility class G airspace - At and below 900 m (3000 ft) AMSL, or 300 m (1000 ft) above terrain, whichever is the higher);
  - d) SERA.5005(c)(3) (Visual Flight Rules flights at night – VMC visibility, distance from cloud and cloud ceiling minima);
  - e) SERA.5005(c)(5) (Visual Flight Rules flights at night – minimum altitudes);
  - f) SERA.5005(f) (Visual Flight Rules flights by day – minimum heights);
  - g) SERA.5010(b)(2) (Special VFR – Flight visibility); and
  - h) SERA.5015(b) (Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) – Rules Applicable to all IFR Flights – Minimum levels).
- 7) On any flight pursuant to this Exemption, the following conditions apply:
- a) the pilot in command of the helicopter shall only depart from the specified requirements of SERA at paragraph 6 to the extent necessary to achieve the purpose of the flight;
  - b) the operator of the helicopter shall specify in the SAR operations manual the procedures and minima applicable to SAR operational and training flights;
  - c) throughout all flights pursuant to this permission and exemption, no persons shall be carried other than the flight crew members, SAR Technical Crew Members, authorised persons and other persons directly involved in the SAR flight and whom it is necessary to carry for that purpose; and
  - d) the operator shall establish a procedure in the operations manual for the authorisation of authorised persons which must be approved by the CAA.
- 8) This Exemption supersedes ORS4 No. 1444 which is revoked.

#### **Date in Force**

- 9) This Exemption has effect from the date it is signed and remains in force until it is revoked.

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for the Civil Aviation Authority  
21 February 2022