

Miscellaneous

No: 1627

UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139

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General Exemption E6347

Airbus Helicopters H145/H175 and Leonardo Helicopters AW139/169/189 Helicopter Offshore Operations – Helicopter Terrain Awareness and Warning System (HTAWS)

Background

- 1) Certain Airbus Helicopters H145/H175 helicopters and Leonardo Helicopters AW139/169/189 helicopters operating under a SPA.HOFO Specific Approval are required to be fitted with HTAWS with enhanced capabilities from 1 January 2025. Helicopter Operators and the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Airbus Helicopters and Leonardo Helicopters, have been unable to complete the work required to upgrade HTAWS in time to meet that implementation date.
- 2) General exemption E6257 (published as ORS4 No. 1617) was issued to permit continued operation until 30 June 2025 to allow time to consider the alternative solutions that had been proposed by Airbus Helicopters (ref. Technical Note TN M001A0509E99 Issue A dated 30 September 2024) and Leonardo Helicopters (ref. document No. Mulp3440X001 Issue A dated 02 October 2024). These were reviewed with the helicopter operators and the OEMs at meetings held on 14 and 15 January 2025 and were rejected. However, alternative interim solutions were identified and agreed which comprise embodiment of available aircraft modifications to provide partial compliance.
- 3) This exemption is granted to meet urgent operational needs to permit continued operation until 30 June 2027 while the specified aircraft modifications are embodied to provide partial compliance, and while programmes for achieving full compliance are produced and agreed with the respective OEMs and helicopter operators.

Exemption

- 4) The Civil Aviation Authority ('the CAA'), pursuant to article 71(1) of UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, hereby exempts, subject to the conditions detailed in paragraph 6, the Operator of any Airbus Helicopters H145/H175 helicopter or Leonardo Helicopters AW139/169/189 helicopter specified in paragraph 5 from the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(ii) of UK Regulation (EU) 965/2012 with regard to HTAWS.

- 5) This exemption only applies to Airbus Helicopters H145/H175 helicopters and Leonardo Helicopters AW139/169/189 helicopters first issued with an individual C of A after 31 December 1999, used in CAT operations and operating under a SPA.HOFO Specific Approval.
- 6) This exemption is granted subject to the following conditions:
- a) Airbus Helicopters H145 helicopters must be equipped with HTAWS meeting the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(i) of UK Reg (EU) 965/2012, and their aircraft software must be upgraded to Helionix v10 for the H145 D-2 and Helionix v10.1 for the H145 D-3 or the operator of such aircraft must provide a formal written commitment to UK CAA Head of Flight Operations to achieve this status by 30 June 2027.
 - b) Airbus Helicopters H175 helicopters must be equipped with HTAWS meeting the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(i) of UK Reg (EU) 965/2012, and their aircraft software must be upgraded to Helionix v11.1 or the operator of such aircraft must provide a formal written commitment to UK CAA Head of Flight Operations to achieve this status by 30 June 2027.
 - c) Leonardo Helicopters AW139 helicopters must be equipped with HTAWS meeting the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(i) of UK Reg (EU) 965/2012, and Service Bulletin SB 139-634 must be embodied, or the operator of such aircraft must provide a formal written commitment to UK CAA Head of Flight Operations to achieve this status by 30 June 2027.
 - d) Leonardo Helicopters AW169 helicopters must be equipped with HTAWS meeting the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(i) of UK Reg (EU) 965/2012, and Service Bulletin SB 169-206, including the HTAWS Offshore modes option, must be embodied or the operator of such aircraft must provide a formal written commitment to UK CAA Head of Flight Operations to achieve this status by 30 June 2027.
 - e) Leonardo Helicopters AW189 helicopters must be equipped with HTAWS meeting the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(i) of UK Reg (EU) 965/2012, and Service Bulletin SB 189-240, including the HTAWS Offshore modes option, must be embodied or the operator of such aircraft must provide a formal written commitment to UK CAA Head of Flight Operations to achieve this status by 30 June 2027.
 - f) This exemption (E6347) shall be recorded in the appropriate aircraft records.
 - g) Operators wishing to use this exemption must obtain prior approval from their assigned Flight Operations Inspector.

Date in Force

- 7) This exemption shall have effect from the date it is signed until 30 June 2027, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

B Cleaver

for the Civil Aviation Authority

05 June 2025

Explanatory Note:

Paragraphs 4 and 6 of this exemption refer to specific parts of SPA.HOFO.160. At the time of writing the exemption the official version of the regulation is numbered as SPA.HOFO.160(c)(i) and SPA.HOFO.160(c)(ii). However, these references are due to be changed in the near future to SPA.HOFO.160(c)(1) and SPA.HOFO.160(c)(2) and in some (unofficial) published versions of the regulation this change has already been made.

For the sake of clarity, the following requirements are what are being referred to:

‘SPA.HOFO.160 Equipment requirements

(c) Helicopter terrain awareness warning system (HTAWS)

- (i) Helicopters used in CAT operations with a maximum certificated take-off mass of more than 3175 kg or a MOPSC of more than 9 and first issued with an individual C of A after 31 December 2018 shall be equipped with an HTAWS that provides classic mode functionality and meets an acceptable standard.
- (ii) From 1 January 2025, helicopters used in CAT operations with a maximum certificated take-off mass of more than 3175 kg or a MOPSC of more than 9 and first issued with an individual C of A after 31 December 1999 shall be equipped with an HTAWS configured for offshore operations as specified in an acceptable standard.’