

Miscellaneous**No: 1645****UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139****Publication date:** 28 January 2026**General Exemption E6524**

Upper Torso Restraint for Crew Seats - Robinson R44 and R22 Helicopters**Background**

- 1) In 2015, the UK was permitted by the European Commission to grant approvals derogating from CAT. IDE.H.205(b)(2) of Annex IV to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 965/2012 to allow commercial air transport (CAT) operators to continue to operate Robinson R22 and R44 helicopters with a restraint system on the flight crew seats having a seat belt and a diagonal shoulder strap. The approvals for R44 helicopters were only to be granted for those with a first individual Certificate of Airworthiness issued before 28 October 2014.
- 2) This exemption is issued to meet urgent operational needs to enable the continued CAT operation of the affected helicopters.

Exemption

- 3) The Civil Aviation Authority ('the CAA'), pursuant to Article 71(1) of UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, hereby exempts any operator holding an Air Operator Certificate issued by the CAA from the requirements of UK Regulation (EU) No. 965/2012 specified in paragraph 4 when operating, for the purpose of CAT operations—
 - (a) a Robinson Helicopter Corporation R22 helicopter, or
 - (b) a Robinson Helicopter Corporation R44 helicopter with a first individual Certificate of Airworthiness issued prior to 28 October 2014;

this exemption is subject to the condition in paragraph 5.
- 4) The exemption detailed in paragraph 3 is from the requirement in CAT. IDE.H.205(b)(2), which is imposed on the operator by Article 5(1), that a seat belt with upper torso restraint system shall include two shoulder straps and a seat belt that may be used independently on flight crew seats, and on the seats for the minimum required cabin crew.
- 5) On any flight pursuant to this Exemption, a helicopter specified in paragraph 3 must have a flight crew restraint system consisting of a lap belt and a diagonal shoulder strap (three points restraint system) as provided by the aircraft manufacturer.
- 6) This Exemption supersedes Official Record Series 4 No. 1589, which is revoked.

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Date in Force

7) This exemption has effect from the date it is signed until 31 January 2028, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

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for the Civil Aviation Authority

28 January 2026