



Miscellaneous

No: 1661

UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139

Publication date: 01 July 2026

General Exemption E6646

Sikorsky S92A Helicopter Offshore Operations – Helicopter Terrain Awareness and Warning System (HTAWS)

Background

- 1) Since 1 January 2025, in accordance with UK Regulation (EU) No. 965/2012, Annex V, Part.SPA,HOFO.160(c)(ii) there has been a requirement for certain Sikorsky S92A helicopters operating under a Specific Approval to be fitted with HTAWS with enhanced capabilities. Helicopter Operators together with Sikorsky, the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), were not able to complete the work to upgrade HTAWS in time to meet that implementation date.
- 2) By letter dated 31 October 2024 ref: CAL-24-5455 Sikorsky initially committed to achieving full compliance for the S92A, including deployment on affected aircraft, by October 2026. General Exemption E 6243 / ORS4 No.1614 was duly granted by the CAA.
- 3) Although good progress has been made by Sikorsky, the original programme has been delayed due to an unforeseen technical issue as described in Sikorsky letter ref. CAL-26-5601 dated 16 March 2026. Full compliance, including deployment on affected aircraft, is now expected to be completed by 30 June 2027.
- 4) This exemption is hereby granted to meet the urgent need to permit continued offshore operation of type S92A helicopters while the upgrade is completed.

Exemption

- 5) The Civil Aviation Authority ('the CAA'), pursuant to article 71 of UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, hereby exempts, subject to the conditions detailed in paragraph 7, the Operator of any Sikorsky S92A helicopter specified in paragraph 6 from the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(ii) of UK Regulation (EU) 965/2012 with regard to HTAWS.
- 6) This exemption applies only to the Operators of Sikorsky S92A helicopters first issued with an individual Certificate of Airworthiness after 31 December 1999, used in Part-CAT operations and operating under a SPA.HOFO Specific Approval.

- 7) This exemption is granted subject to the following conditions:
- a. Sikorsky S-92A helicopters must be equipped with HTAWS meeting the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(i) of UK Regulation (EU) No.965/2012;
 - b. Sikorsky S-92A helicopters must meet the requirements of SPA.HOFO.160(c)(ii) of UK Regulation (EU) No.965/2012 by 30 June 2027;
 - c. this exemption E6646 shall be recorded in the appropriate aircraft records;
 - d. Operators wishing to use this exemption must obtain prior approval from their assigned CAA Flight Operations Inspector.
- 8) This exemption supersedes Official Record Series 4 No.1614, which is revoked.

Date in Force

- 9) This exemption shall have effect from 01 July 2026 until 30 June 2027, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

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23 June 2026

Explanatory Note:

Paragraphs 1, 5 and 7 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.’