

CIVIL AVIATION REQUIREMENTS  
SECTION-7 FLIGHT CREW STANDARDS,  
TRAINING AND LICENSING

SERIES-J PART -II

DATE : 14<sup>TH</sup> FEB., 2000

EFFECTIVE : FORTHWITH

**Subject: Flight and Duty Time Limitations for Helicopter Pilots.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Annex 6, Operation of Aircraft, Part III, to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, requires Contracting States to establish regulations specifying the limits applicable to flight time, flight duty period and rest periods for helicopter pilots.
- 1.2 In order to enhance safety of operations and in exercise of powers conferred under Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules 1937, the following Flight Duty Time and Flight Time Limitations (FDTL) for helicopter pilots are issued for information, guidance, and compliance by all concerned.

**This CAR supersedes AIC 17 of 1990 dated 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1990.**

**2. APPLICABILITY**

The flight time, flight duty time, landings and rest period requirements contained in this CAR shall be applicable to all helicopter pilots.

**3. DEFINITIONS**

**3.1 Flight Duty Time**

Flight Duty Time is the total time including the time to prepare for, execute and terminate a flight or series of flights and the administrative functions

associated therewith. It shall be calculated as the period 45 minutes before the first planned departure and 30 minutes after final arrival. The time spent in the office, training or any other official duty before the flight shall count towards Flight Duty Time.

3.2 Flight Time

Flight Time is the total time from the moment a helicopter moves under its own power for the purpose of taking off until it comes to rest at the end of a flight.

3.3 Rest Period

Rest Period is the period during which a flight crew is relieved of all duties.

**4. FLIGHT AND DUTY TIME LIMITATIONS**

The following limitations regarding maximum flight duty time and flight time shall be observed:

4.1 MAXIMUM FLIGHT DUTY TIME

- |     |   |          |
|-----|---|----------|
| (a) | In one day ( i.e. any 24 consecutive hours) | - 10 hrs |
| (b) | In any seven consecutive days               | - 60 hrs |

The limit given in (a) above may be extended to 12 hrs, but not more than 3 times in any period of 28 consecutive days.

4.2 MAXIMUM FLIGHT TIME

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| (a) | In one day (i.e. any 24 consecutive hours)  | - 7 hrs   |
| (b) | In any seven consecutive days               | - 30 hrs  |
| (c) | In any 28 consecutive days                  | - 90 hrs  |
| (d) | In one year (i.e. any consecutive 365 days) | - 800 hrs |

**5. MAXIMUM LANDINGS :**

Crew flying repetitive short sectors, for example off shore sector shuttles, at an average rate of 10 or more landings per hour, shall have a break of at least 30 minutes away from the helicopter within any continuous period of 3 hours. Maximum number of landings on any one day i.e. 24 consecutive hours shall not exceed 60. The record of all landings made by the crew shall be maintained.

**6. REST PERIOD**

A minimum rest period of 10 consecutive hours encompassing the period 2300 hours to 0500 hours shall be provided to all the helicopter pilots. This period shall be extended to 11 hours if the period from 2300 hours to 0500 hours is not fully included therein.

**7. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 7.1 Operators shall maintain record of FDTL of each flight crew member and ensure strict compliance of the requirements contained in this CAR.
- 7.2 In case of helicopter pilots engaged in 6 weeks 'ON' schedule, a minimum of 3 weeks 'OFF' shall be provided. The maximum Flight and Duty Time Limitations and landing limitations specified in paras 4 and 5 above shall not be exceeded even in this type of duty schedule.
- 7.3 Where the duty schedule as in para 7.2 above is not applicable, minimum one day 'OFF' shall be provided in a period of any 7 consecutive days or minimum 3 days 'OFF' in any 14 consecutive days, in case the duty period is extended beyond 7 days without a break.
- 7.4 While on production duty, breaks of one hour or more between flights will not count towards Duty Time Limitation provided that the pilot is relieved of all duties during that time.
- 7.5 In extreme emergency or life saving missions, the Flight/Duty Time Limitations may be exceeded. However, the crew will be provided additional rest of 1 hour for every 30 minutes of Flight Duty Time in excess of 12 hours. All such cases shall be subsequently reported by the operator to the DGCA (Director of Air Safety) with necessary justification.

Sd/-  
( H.S. Khola )  
Director General of Civil Aviation