



HSAC-RP

No. 93-1

HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE-RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

OFFSHORE (VFR) OPERATING ALTITUDES FOR HELICOPTERS

Background

To enhance safety through standardized vertical separation of helicopters when flying in the offshore environment, the following is recommended (weather permitting):

Recommended Practice:

A. Field Operations

Without compromising minimum safe operating altitudes, helicopters working within an offshore field "constituting a cluster" should use altitudes not to exceed 500 feet.

B. Enroute Operations

1. Helicopters operating below 750' AGL should avoid transitioning through offshore fields.
2. Helicopters enroute to and from offshore locations, below 3000 feet, weather permitting, should use enroute altitudes as outlined below:

<u>Magnetic Heading</u>	<u>Altitude</u>
0° to 179°	750'
	1750'
	2750'
180° to 359°	1250'
	2250'

C. Area Agreements

See HSAC Area Agreement Maps for operating procedures for onshore high-density traffic locations

NOTE: Helicopters operated VFR above 3000 feet should refer to guidelines published [in the current, applicable FAR'S and the Airman's Information Manual (AIM).

D. Landing Lights

Aircraft landing lights should be on to enhance aircraft identification:

- during take off and landings,
- in congested helicopter or fixed wing traffic areas,
- during reduced visibility,
- or anytime safety could be enhanced.

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