



HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE-RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

TWO (2) HELICOPTER OPERATIONS ON OFFSHORE HELIDECKS

Background

Standardized procedures can enhance the safety of operating a second helicopter* on an offshore helideck, enabling pilots to determine/maintain minimum operational parameters. Orientation of the parked helicopter on the helideck, wind and other factors may negate multi-helicopter operations. More conservative Rotor Diameter (RD) clearances may be required under differing condition, i.e. temperature, wet deck, wind (velocity/direction/gusts), obstacles, approach/departure angles, etc. Operations are at the pilot's discretion.

Recommended Practice:

Helideck size, structural weight capability, and type of main rotor on the parked and operating helicopter will aid in determining accessibility by a second helicopter. Pilots should determine that multi-helicopter deck operations are permitted by the helideck owner/operator. (SEE RP 93-2)

Recommended Criteria:

- **Minimum One-Third Rotor Diameter clearance (1/3 RDI)**

The landing helicopter maintains a minimum 1/3 RD clearance between the tips of its turning rotor and the closest part of a parked and secured helicopter (rotors stopped and tied down).

- **Three foot parking distance from deck edge (3')**

Helicopters operating on an offshore helideck land or park the helicopter with a skid/wheel assembly no closer than 3 feet from helideck edge.

- **Tiedowns**

Main rotors on all helicopters that are shut down be properly secured (tied down) to prevent the rotor blades from turning.

* Medium (transport) and larger helicopters not land on any offshore helideck where a light helicopter is parked unless the light helicopter is properly secured to the helideck and has main rotor tied down.

Helideck anti -skid surface

Helideck owners/operators ensure that the helideck has a serviceable anti-skid surface.

Weight and Limitations markings on helideck

The helideck weight and limitation markings visible to the pilot (see State of Louisiana Offshore Heliport Design Guide dated May 1, 1988, page 13).

Note: Some offshore helideck owners / operators have restrictions on the number of helicopters allowed on a helideck. When helideck size permits an equal level of safety can be achieved, multiple helicopter operations are permitted by some operators.

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