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GENERAL

LEGISLATION MATTERS

SUBSTITUTION OF DOCUMENT SA-CATS-OPS 138 IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The Commissioner for Civil Aviation has, after considering the recommendation of the Civil Aviation Regulations Committee in terms of regulation 11.03.5 of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 1997, decided to substitute the proposed Document SA-CATS-OPS 138 for the existing technical standard in the interests of aviation safety.

The said technical standard set out in the schedule below, shall come into effect on the date the new Part 138 of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 1997, is put into operation. The said date shall be published on the CAA Website (caa.co.za).

SCHEDULE

138.03.1 TRAINING OF FLIGHT CREW, MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

1. Initial training of flight crew

- (1) *Flight crew members engaged in air ambulance operations must successfully complete a course of instruction prior to undertaking flying duties, and course must include the following subjects:*
 - (a) *an overview of the way in which air ambulance operations function, their purpose and limitations;*
 - (b) *orientation to infection control;*
 - (c) *a basic knowledge of the medical and rescue equipment carried in the aircraft;*
 - (d) *a basic understanding of patient transport consideration including stabilisation, preparation and handling;*
 - (e) *patient loading and unloading procedures;*
 - (f) *hot-loading policy and hot-unloading procedures*
 - (g) *emergency medical service communication procedures;*
 - (h) *aircraft emergency procedures pertaining to air ambulance flights, securing oxygen, securing loose equipment and patient evacuation;*
 - (i) *requirements for use of unprepared or unlit landing sites; and*
 - (j) *an overview of the training courses the operator supplies to medical personnel and operations personnel.*
- (2) *Flight crew weather members engaged in air ambulance operations must successfully complete operational training, which must include:*
 - (a) *terrain and weather considerations peculiar to the area;*
 - (b) *specific knowledge of the manual of procedure of the operator; and*
 - (c) *in the case of helicopter flight crew: review of landing sites at referring and receiving hospitals.*

2. Recurrent training of flight crew

- (1) *The syllabus of the recurrent training course must cover the same subject matter as contained in the initial training course contemplated in TS 138.03.1.1.*

- (2) *The amount of training required by the recurrent training course is determined after due note has been taken of the flight crew member's previous training, competency and experience, but shall include any relevant new developments in air ambulance operations and emergency medical procedures.*

3. Initial training of medical personnel

Medical personnel members engaged in air ambulance operations must successfully complete a course of instruction prior to undertaking flying duties, and such course must include the following:

(1) General knowledge

A medical personnel member must receive instruction on:

- (a) all aircraft types operated by the air ambulance operator, their capacity, performance, range, capabilities, as well as aircraft handling (ground);*
- (b) aircraft pressurisation aspects;*
- (c) introduction to aviation, air traffic control, navigation procedures;*
- (d) emergency medical service communication procedures;*
- (e) the manual of procedure of the operator;*
- (f) dress;*
- (g) insurance cover provided by the operator, if any, and additional cover available in the market; and*
- (h) different responsibilities of the flight crew and medical personnel and authority of the pilot-in-command;*
- (i) overdue actions – emergency plans;*
- (j) communications in an emergency;*
- (k) basic survival instructions;*
- (l) a clear understanding of the day and night flying limitations;*
- (m) a basic understanding of aerodrome and heliport requirements;*
- (n) requirements for use of unprepared or unlit landing sites; and*
- (o) crowd control and flight crew and medical personnel duties.*

(2) Definite knowledge

A medical personnel member must receive instruction on:

- (a) danger areas around the aircraft;*
- (b) standard helicopter and aeroplane safety rules;*
- (c) look-out assistance for obstructions, wires and debris;*
- (d) location and operation of safety equipment, fire extinguishers, emergency exits and ELT;*
- (e) location and operation of aircraft electrical master switches and fuel shut-off valves;*
- (f) location and operation of oxygen emergency shut-off valves;*
- (g) correct stowage of medical equipment;*

- (h) patient loading and unloading procedures;*
- (i) hot-loading policy and hot-unloading procedures; and*
- (j) aircraft emergency procedures pertaining to air ambulance operations, securing oxygen securing loose equipment, set belts, forced-landing drills and patient evacuation.*

4. Recurrent training of medical personnel

- (1) *The syllabus of the recurrent training course shall cover the same subject matter as contained in the initial training*

course contemplated in TS 138.03.1.3.

- (2) *The amount of training required by the recurrent training course is determined after due note has been taken of the medical personnel member's previous training, competency and experience, but shall include any new developments in air ambulance operations and emergency medical procedures.*

5. Initial training of operations personnel

Operations personnel engaged in air ambulance operations must successfully complete a course of instruction prior to undertaking duties, and such course must include the following:

(1) All operations personnel

- (a) *general knowledge regarding helicopter and aeroplane types, their capacity, performance, range and capabilities;*
- (b) *danger areas around the aircraft;*
- (c) *standard safety rules;*
- (d) *location and operation of safety equipment, fire extinguishers and emergency exits;*
- (e) *patient loading and unloading procedures;*
- (f) *hot-loading and hot-unloading procedures;*
- (g) *overdue actions;*
- (h) *a clear understanding of the day and night flying limitations;*
- (i) *requirements for the use of unprepared or unlit landing sites, including the effect of dust, rubbish, obstructions and wires;*

(2) Radio operators and dispatchers

Radio operators and dispatchers must receive additional training on:

- (a) *introduction to aviation, air traffic control and navigation procedures;*
- (b) *emergency medical service communications procedures;*
- (c) *the manual of procedure of the operator; and*
- (d) *emergency plans;*

6. Recurrent training of operations personnel

- (1) *the syllabus of the recurrent training course shall cover the same subject matter as contained in the initial training course contemplated in TS 138.03.1.5.*
- (2) *the amount of training required by the recurrent training course is determined after due note has been taken of the operation personnel member's previous training, competency and experience, but shall include any new developments in air ambulance operations and emergency medical procedures.*

138.04.2 MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

1. Structure and contents

- (1) *The manual of procedure must contain specific policies and procedures regarding aircraft operations in the following areas-*
 - (a) *patient loading and unloading procedures;*
 - (b) *protocols for hot loading and unloading, if applicable;*
 - (c) *refuelling with the rotors or propellers turning;*
 - (d) *refuelling with medical personnel and/or patient on board;*
 - (e) *hearing protection for medical personnel;*

- (f) *use of safety equipment, such as flame retardant clothing;*
 - (g) *use of seat belts and shoulder harnesses by medical personnel;*
 - (h) *infection control; and*
 - (i) *records of personnel health or immunisation status.*
- (2) *The manual of procedure must contain a recurrent training programme for flight crew members, medical personnel and operations personnel.*

138.06.2 DISPATCHING BASE

(3) Operations centre

The operation centre must provide for the following:

- (a) *24-hour access to the operation centre;*
- (b) *telephone line;*
- (c) *facsimile line;*
- (d) *ability to communicate with the aircraft as described in CAR 138.05.3;*
- (e) *maps of the area of operation;*
- (f) *a database of the contact numbers of emergency medical services, police, fire and traffic departments in the area of operation;*
- (g) *a logsheet system or method to record all communications and actions related to operations ; and*
- (h) *contact details of the operator's aeromedical advisor.*

COMMISSIONER FOR CIVIL AVIATION