

SOUTH AFRICAN



CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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AIC
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08-07-04

OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT

SAFETY

CAUTIONARY NOTICE REGARDING MINIMUM HEIGHTS

It has been brought to the attention of the SACAA that some pilots are performing potentially hazardous manoeuvres inside air space over Nature Reserves/ Heritage Sites. By so doing, these pilots create a nuisance as many wild animals are seriously affected by low flying aircraft. The minimum height restrictions in South Africa are prescribed in the Civil Aviation Regulations in Part 91.06.32 and Part 91.01.10. These requirements, firstly, ensure that aircraft are operated at sufficient height so that if a power unit fails, the machine can be landed safely and secondly, serve to protect persons, property and wild animals from the nuisance of aircraft being operated too close to the ground.

Flying Altitude over Nature Reserves or Heritage Sites

Please note that the SACAA is in the process of engaging with Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) concerning the Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003. The afore-mentioned Act is making it more difficult for general and recreational aviation operations over Nature Reserves or Heritage sites by not allowing flying at an altitude of less than 2500 feet above the highest point in the relevant reserve. This Act stipulates that the area of a Nature Reserve or Heritage Site includes the airspace up to 2500 feet above the highest point of the reserve or site, except for the purpose of lawfully landing therein or lawfully taking off there from.

COMMISSIONER FOR CIVIL AVIATION