

Balloon Declared Operator Guidance

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Foreword

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for organisations or individual seeking to Register as a Declared Balloon Operator (DBO), offering commercial ballooning flights where the principal place of business and registered office is located in the United Kingdom. The CAA will not accept any declarations from Organisations or individuals not meeting these criteria.

This document and other CAA Documents are available at www.caa.co.uk website and can be downloaded to users without charge.

It should be noted that this document is subject to change as information is disseminated from the European Aviation Safety Agency or from other National Regulation.

Nothing in this document is intended to conflict with the EASA Regulation (as taken into UK law by the EU Withdrawal) Act or UK statute law where applicable. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that all information is correct at time of publication, the CAA reserves the right to amend this document as required to accommodate changes to the primary authority documents, to correct errors and omissions or to reflect changes in national policy and best practice.

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Glossary of abbreviations and definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
AMC	Acceptable Means of Compliance (EASA)
ANO	Air Navigation Order (2016), as amended
ATO	Approved Training Organisation
BPL	Balloon Pilot Licence
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority (UK)
CAMO	Continuing Airworthiness Maintenance Organisation
CFI	Chief Flying Instructor
CPL	Commercial Pilot Licence
DTO	Declared Training Organisation
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
EU	European Union
FE	Flight Examiner
FSTD	Flight Simulation Training Device
FI(R)	Flight Instructor Restricted
FIE	Flight Instructor Examiner
FSO	Flight Standards Officer
GAU	General Aviation Unit
GM	Guidance Material (EASA)
GR	Ground Examiner
HT	Head of Training
NAA	National Aviation Authority
OM	Operations Manual
PPL	Private Pilot Licence
SM	Safety Manager
SMS	Safety Management System

Chapter 1

Introduction

Current Legislation and Status

- 1.1 Regulation (EU) 2018/395 (Balloon Rule Book) lays down detailed rules for air operations with balloons, where such aircraft meet the conditions laid down in points (b) and (c) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 (2008 Basic Regulation). Operators of balloons shall operate the balloon in accordance with the requirements set out in Subpart BAS of Annex II within the EASA Balloon Rulebook.
- 1.2 This regulation for balloons comes into force 8th April 2019 with a final implementation date in the UK of the 8th October 2019.
- 1.3 Operators or individuals looking to declare as Declared Balloon Operators (BDO) should read thoroughly Regulation (EU) 2018/395 (Balloon Rule Book) before submitting a declaration.
- 1.4 From the 8th April 2019 the transition to Declared Balloon Operators (BDO) from Air Operator Certificate Balloons (AOC(B)) will begin. After 8th October 2019 the AOC(B) operator will no longer be recognised and become obsolete within the UK. After this date, all operators engaged in commercial operations with balloons should make a declaration in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/395.
- 1.5 Operators of balloons shall operate the balloon in accordance with the requirements set out in the Balloon Rule Book Subpart BAS of Annex II.
- 1.6 However, BOP.BAS.001 shall not apply to design or production organisations which are compliant with Articles 8 and 9, respectively, of Commission Regulation (EU) No 748/2012 and which operate the balloon, within the scope of their privileges, for the purposes of the introduction or modification of balloon types.

- 1.7 Operators shall only be entitled to engage in such commercial operations after declaring to the competent authority their capacity and means to discharge the responsibilities associated with the operation of the balloon. They shall make that declaration and operate the balloon, in addition to the requirements set out in Subpart BAS, in accordance with the requirements set out in Subpart ADD of Annex II.

Purpose of this Document

- 1.8 This document is intended to serve the following purposes:
- Support new organisations ensure that a declaration as a DBO satisfy EASA requirements
 - Assist current AOC(B) who desire to become a DBO
 - Explain administrative arrangements and legal matters in relation to how the CAA will administer DBOs
 - Give guidance to organisations to ensure continued compliance as and when there are any appropriate or necessary changes to the organisations

This document should be read in conjunction with the relevant provisions of EASA Regulation Part-FCL, Part-ARO, Part-ORO, and EASA Balloon Rulebook.