

Miscellaneous

No: 1057

Rules of the Air Regulations 2007

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General Permission

Balloon Pilots – Congested Area Take-Off Permission

- 1) The Civil Aviation Authority, pursuant to Rule 5(3)(c) of the Rules of the Air Regulations 2007, hereby permits any hot air balloon (the 'said balloon') to fly over a congested area of a city, town or settlement below a height of 1,000 feet above the highest fixed obstacle within a horizontal radius of 600 metres of the aircraft, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 2.
- 2) This permission is granted subject to the following conditions:
 - a) this permission can only be relied upon for the purpose of taking off from within or adjacent to a congested area;
 - b) the pilot in command of the said balloon must be the holder of either:
 - i) a valid Commercial Pilot's Licence (Balloons) with experience which includes three ascents from a congested area site under supervision as detailed in paragraph 2(b)(ii); or
 - ii) a valid Private Pilot's Licence (Balloons) with a minimum total flying experience in command of balloons exceeding 35 hours which includes three ascents from a congested area site under supervision. The supervisor of the aforementioned ascents must be the pilot in command and the holder of either a valid Commercial Pilot's Licence (Balloon), or a valid Private Pilot's Licence (Balloons), having a minimum total flying experience in command of balloons exceeding 75 hours which includes six ascents from a congested area site;
 - c) flights pursuant to this permission can only take place with prior permission in writing of the owner of the site;
 - d) before any flight pursuant to this permission, the operator must notify the local police authority of the intended flights;
 - e) before any flight pursuant to this permission, the pilot in command of the said balloon must reasonably satisfy himself that the height of any fixed object within the sector 45 degrees each side of a line vertically below the intended flight path does not exceed 30% of the horizontal distance between the said fixed object and the point of take-off;
 - f) the said balloon cannot be flown during take-off pursuant to this permission within 60 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure except the balloon recovery vehicle(s);
 - g) flight pursuant to this permission can only be made by day and in weather conditions which will enable the said balloon to remain clear of cloud, in sight of the surface, with

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a visibility of at least 5 kilometres and which will ensure that the landing will be clear of any congested area;

- h) this permission applies only to the 5 minutes of any flight during the climb immediately after take-off and within 1.5 kilometres of the launch site. Thereafter the said balloon must not be flown over any congested area of a city, town or settlement below 1,000 feet above the highest fixed obstacle within a horizontal radius of 600 metres of the said balloon; and
 - i) the pilot in command of the said balloon must ensure that Air Traffic Control clearances are obtained before flight in controlled airspace or Aerodrome Traffic Zones.
- 3) The breach in relation to any balloon of any condition of this permission will render this permission invalid for that balloon but not for any other said balloon.
 - 4) This permission supersedes Official Record Series 4 No. 997, which is revoked.
 - 5) This permission has effect from the date it is signed until 1 December 2015, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

T Rapson

for the Civil Aviation Authority

27 November 2014

Explanatory Note:

As defined in the Air Navigation Order, a congested area in relation to a city, town or settlement means any area which is substantially used for residential, industrial, commercial or recreational purposes.