

Miscellaneous

No: 1065

Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012

Publication date: 9 December 2014

General Permissions

Standardised European Rules of the Air – Exceptions to the Minimum Height Requirements

1) Definition

In these permissions 'SERA' means Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012 ('the Standardised European Rules of the Air' (SERA)).

2) General (SERA.5005(f)(2))

- a) The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105 and SERA.5005(f), an aircraft to fly at a height of less than 150 metres (500 feet) above the highest obstacle within a radius of 150 metres (500 feet) from the aircraft, subject to the condition set out in subparagraph (b).
- b) The aircraft must not be flown closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure except with the permission of the CAA.

3) Landing and Taking Off

The Civil Aviation Authority permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105, SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b), an aircraft to fly below the heights specified in SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b) if it is flying in accordance with normal aviation practices and:

- a) practising approaches to land at or checking navigational aids or procedures at a Government or licensed aerodrome;
- b) practising forced landings if it is not flown closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure; or
- c) flying in accordance with a notified procedure or when specifically authorised by the CAA in accordance with SERA.5015(b).

4) Landing and Taking Off at a Training Aerodrome

- a) The Civil Aviation Authority permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105, SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b), an aeroplane of which the maximum total weight authorised does not exceed 2,730 kg to fly below the heights specified at SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b) if it is flying in accordance with normal aviation practice in the circumstances specified in subparagraph (c).

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- b) The Civil Aviation Authority permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105, SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b), a gyroplane or helicopter of which the maximum total weight authorised does not exceed 3,175 kg to fly below the heights specified at SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b) if it is flying in accordance with normal aviation practice in the circumstances specified in subparagraph (c).
- c) The circumstances specified in subparagraphs (a) and (b) are:
 - i) the aeroplane, gyroplane or helicopter is taking off from, landing at or practising approaches to landing at a training aerodrome; and
 - ii) the flight is one on which instruction in flying is being given to a person or a flying test is being performed by a person for the purpose of becoming qualified for the grant of a pilot licence or the inclusion or variation of an aircraft rating, a night rating or a night qualification in a licence.
- d) For the purposes of subparagraph (c)(ii), a 'training aerodrome' means an aerodrome which the pilot-in-command of the aircraft is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, has adequate facilities for the safe conduct of flights on which instruction in flying is being given to a person for the purpose of becoming qualified for the grant of a pilot licence or the inclusion or variation of any rating or qualification in the licence.

5) Flying Displays, Air Races and Contests

The Civil Aviation Authority permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105, SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b), an aircraft taking part in a flying display, air race or contest to fly below 150 metres (500 feet) above the ground or water or closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure if it is within a horizontal distance of 1,000 metres of the gathering of persons assembled to witness the event.

6) Glider Hill-Soaring

The Civil Aviation Authority permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105, SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b), a glider to fly below 150 metres (500 feet) above the ground or water or closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure if it is hill-soaring.

7) Picking Up and Dropping at an Aerodrome

The Civil Aviation Authority permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105, SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b), an aircraft picking up or dropping tow ropes, banners or similar articles at an aerodrome to fly below 150 metres (500 feet) above the ground or water or closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure.

8) Manoeuvring Helicopters

- a) The Civil Aviation Authority permits, under paragraphs SERA.3105, SERA.5005(f) and SERA.5015(b), a helicopter to fly below 150 metres (500 feet) above the ground or water or closer than 150 metres (500 feet) to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure if it is conducting manoeuvres, in accordance with normal aviation practice, within the boundaries of a licensed or Government aerodrome or (with the written permission of the CAA) at other sites, subject to subparagraph (b).
- b) When flying in accordance with this permission the helicopter must not be operated closer than 60 metres to any persons, vessels, vehicles or structures located outside the aerodrome or site.