

JULY 2021



CARE OF PASSENGERS

IN GENERAL AVIATION AIRCRAFT



YOUR SAFETY SENSE LEAFLET FOR: **CARE OF PASSENGERS**

Taking up friends and relatives is one of the most rewarding elements of GA flying, but there are some considerations for the health and safety of passengers and to ensure any associated risks are managed.

Under the Air Navigation Order and the Air Operations Regulation, the pilot in command of any aircraft has responsibility for the safety of those onboard.

While the legal responsibility starts after boarding with the intention of flight, you should also ensure that passenger safety is considered prior to and after the flight, for example when airside at the airfield.

With more experienced passengers it will likely not be necessary to cover everything included in this leaflet, although items such as the safety briefing remain legal requirements, regardless of how often a passenger has flown.

PRIOR TO THE FLIGHT

Weather conditions



Explain to passengers that flying in light aircraft is subject to weather conditions and manage their expectations accordingly.

If you need to plan a particular date for the flight in advance, monitor the weather forecast a few days beforehand and give your would-be passengers plenty of notice if it is looking unfavourable. This will mitigate any perceived pressure to take them flying on the day if conditions are not suitable.

Consider how the weather on the day will influence passenger comfort and enjoyment.

For example if planning a scenic VFR flight, you should choose a day with a good weather forecast and reschedule if the weather is poor, even if it may be technically safe to fly.

Be aware that sometimes fine and warm days can actually be turbulent and/or hazy, so take that into account when thinking about passenger comfort.

Do not put yourself in a position in which you could be pressured into flying when the weather conditions are not safe.

For example if planning a trip further afield, allow a buffer around it free of other commitments or have a clear alternative such as the train or commercial flight should you or a passenger have a commitment that cannot be missed.