



Civil Aviation Authority
SAFETY NOTICE
Number: SN-2016/005



Issued: 6 June 2016

Restricting the Operation of Aircraft at Flying Displays, Air Races and Contests

This Safety Notice contains recommendations regarding operational safety.

Recipients must ensure that this Notice is copied to all members of their staff who need to take appropriate action or who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	All Aerodrome Operators
Air Traffic:	All Air Traffic Service Providers
Airspace:	Not primarily affected
Airworthiness:	Not primarily affected
Flight Operations:	All Display Pilots
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	All Flying Display, Air Race and Flying Contest Organisers

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Official Record Series 4 (ORS4) No 1124 'Standardised European Rules of the Air – Exceptions to the Minimum Height Requirements'¹ paragraph 4 'Flying Displays, Air Races and Contests', permitted 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. However, operators of civil-registered ex-military jet aircraft have, since publication of CAP 1400 'UK Civil Air Display Review: Final Report'² (Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) April 2016), been required to seek formal approval from the CAA to perform aerobatic manoeuvres below 500 feet.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Safety Notice (SN) is to notify industry of the CAA's decision to remove flying displays, air races and contests from the scope of the General Permissions contained within ORS4 No 1124. This follows publication on 10 March 2016 of Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) Special Bulletin S1-2016³ and the recommendation contained therein that the CAA remove the general exemptions to flight at minimum heights issued for

¹ <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/ORS4No1124.pdf>

² <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP%201400%20MAY16.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/aaib-reports/aaib-investigation-to-hawker-hunter-t7-g-bxfi-special-bulletin-s1-2016>

Flying Displays, Air Races and Contests outlined in ORS4 No 1124 paragraph 4, and the CAA's subsequent acceptance of that recommendation.

- 1.3 ORS4 No 1124 paragraph 4 'Flying Displays, Air Races and Contests' is therefore revoked with effect from 6 June 2016.

2 Compliance Action to be Taken

- 2.1 The organisers of flying displays, air races and contests scheduled to be held between 6 and 30 June 2016, and the pilots and operators of aircraft planned to participate in said events, may seek from the CAA specific exemption from the minimum height requirements at SERA.3105 'Minimum heights' and SERA.5005 'Visual flight rules'.
- 2.2 All flying displays, air races and contests scheduled to take place after 1 July 2016, and the pilots and operators of aircraft planned to participate in said events, must comply with this Safety Notice.
- 2.3 'SERA' means the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012 ('the Standardised European Rules of the Air' (and references to SERA followed by a number mean the corresponding provision of SERA)).

3 Replacement of ORS4 No 1124

- 3.1 A revised version of ORS4 No. 1124 will be published in mid-June 2016 to take effect on 18 August 2016 as part of the UK's implementation of SERA Part C Phase 1. Industry will be notified of its replacement accordingly.

4 Queries

- 4.1 Any queries or requests for further guidance as a result of this communication should be addressed to GA@caa.co.uk.
- 4.2 Any other queries should be addressed to CAA Corporate Communications press.office@caa.co.uk.

5 Cancellation

- 5.1 This Safety Notice will remain in force until 18 August 2016.