

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT



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भारत सरकार
नागर विमानन विभाग
महानिदेशक नागर विमानन का कार्यालय
सफदरजंग एयरपोर्ट के सामने
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OPERATIONS CIRCULAR 5 OF 2008

Subject: Low Level Flying by Helicopters

Helicopters are called upon to undertake role specific work such as aerial photography, aerial surveys etc where they are required to fly low over areas which may be densely populated. It has been reported that many helicopters while undertaking these missions descend below prescribed altitude and fly at these ultra low altitudes for prolonged durations. Not only does this compromise flight safety and endanger the lives of people in that area, but also, inadvertently invades the privacy of private properties, causing them anguish and unnecessary disturbances.

Aircraft Rules categorically states that a helicopter is to maintain minimum 1000 feet AOL if flying over populated areas and 500 feet AOL if flying over water or unpopulated areas. While it is appreciated that the accuracy of maintaining such a vertical separation may get affected due to undulating terrain at some places, it is the responsibility of the pilot to maintain prescribed separation nevertheless.

A pilot must make adequate use of Radio Altimeter. Alternately a pilot must cater for such errors while calculating the minimum height to fly and ensure that helicopter remains above the minimum prescribed altitude at all times. Helicopter Operators are to ensure that their pilots are properly and adequately briefed on this aspect while undertaking Low level flying. The operators must ensure that the helicopters engage in Low Level Flying are equipped with Radio Altimeter, which is a reliable aid for vertical separation.

Sd/-
(Capt. Irshad Ahmed)
Flight Operations Inspector (Helicopter)

To
All Helicopter Operators