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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
TECHNICAL CENTRE, OPP. SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT, NEW DELHI – 110003

CIVIL AVIATION REQUIREMENT
SECTION 2 - AIRWORTHINESS
SERIES 'F', PART XV
ISSUE II, DATED 1ST SEPT 1993

EFFECTIVE: FORTHWITH

Subject: Requirements for manufacture, registration and airworthiness control of hot air balloons.

1. Applicability:

This part of the Civil Airworthiness Requirements lays down the requirements for manufacture, registration, issue/ renewal of Certificate of Airworthiness and continuous maintenance of manned free balloons. The persons engaged in maintenance/ overhaul/ inspection/ repair of the balloons and the balloon components shall be licensed/ approved by the DGCA.

2. Definitions :

(i) "Balloon" means a non-power-driven lighter than air aircraft.

(ii) "Hot Air Balloon" means a balloon that drives its lift from heated air contained within the envelope.

(iii) "Balloon Component" means any part, soundness and correct functioning of which when fitted to a Balloon is essential for the continued airworthiness and safety of the balloon.

(iv) "Major Damage" means any damage to a balloon or balloon component which may affect the safety of the balloon or safety of the person on board.

(v) "Major Defect" means any failure or malfunctioning of a balloon or balloon component, which may affect safety of balloon and/or of persons on board.

(vi) "Envelope" means the enclosure in which the lifting medium is contained.

(vii) "Basket" means the container suspended beneath the envelope, mainly used for the balloon occupants.

(viii) "Design Maximum Weight" means the maximum all up weight of the balloon when not filled with lifting gas or air.

3. Manufacture of Hot Air Balloons

3.1 The standards prescribed in FAR Part 31 for the design shall be the minimum requirements for airworthiness of the hot air balloons.

- 3.2 The suitability and durability of all materials must be established on the basis of experience or tests. It will be ensured that they have the strength and other properties assumed in the design.
- 3.3 Persons/firms desirous to take up design and manufacture of hot air balloons will intimate the DGCA of their intention and apply for necessary approval as required under CAR Section 2 - Series 'E' Part I.
- 3.4 Before a person/firm undertakes manufacture of hot air balloon, a clearance from the local police authorities regarding his character/ antecedents shall be obtained.
- 3.5 A hot air balloon used for personal flying by the pilot(s) need not have a Type Certificate. All other balloons should have a Type Certificate issued or revalidated by the DGCA before undertaking the manufacture.
- 3.6 The manufacturer will be responsible for the quality assurance of his products and will issue a certificate of compliance to airworthiness standards, except where the balloon is certified in Experimental category.
- 3.7 The manufacturer shall keep a complete record of all hot air balloons manufactured and full particulars of those to whom sold and should produce this record to DGCA when required.
- 3.8 The manufacturer shall prepare the necessary documents regarding maintenance and operation for approval of the DGCA in accordance with CAR Section 2 - Series 'E', except for the Experimental Category balloons.
- 3.9 The manufacturer shall develop satisfactory maintenance programme to ensure continued airworthiness of the hot air balloon and should deliver the same with every balloon produced. The manufacturer should also specify the overhaul life of the burner/instruments/gas pipelines and advise the operators regarding organisations which should be approached for the overhaul or other major maintenance. He will be responsible for issuance of any modifications to the hot air balloon to improve safety of operations after the approval of DGCA. For this purpose the manufacturer may provide kits or drawings or suggest alternate methods so that the operators can carry out the modifications.
- 3.10 Components of Balloon/Spare Parts and Materials used on a Balloon :
- Components of Balloon/Spare Parts and materials used thereon shall be :-
- (i) Covered by a Release Note, or equivalent document acceptable to Director General, issued by an approved firm.

- (ii) Manufactured or repaired/overhauled, inspected and certified as airworthy by an approved organisation or persons appropriately licensed or approved by Director General.
4. Registration and Markings of Balloons :
- 4.1 All manned free balloons are required to be registered before any flight is undertaken and registration markings must be affixed thereon in manner prescribed in CAR Section 2 - Series 'X', Part I.
- 4.2 The application for registration should be made on the prescribed proforma CA-28 and should include the prescribed fee of Rs 100 in the form of Indian Postal Orders or Bank Draft payable to the Central Pay and Accounts Officer, DGCA, New Delhi.
- 4.3 The Certificate of registration, when issued, shall include information on the type of Hot Air balloon, constructor's serial number, nationality, registration markings assigned, the number and date of registration. A copy of this C of R shall be kept on board during flight.
- 4.4 Every hot air balloon shall carry an identification plate showing the registration markings, constructor's name, the balloon serial number and the name and address of the owner of the balloon.
5. Security Aspects :
- 5.1 The hot air balloon shall not be sold or disposed of in any way to any person or firm without production of a certificate from the DGCA. The certificate shall be granted by the DGCA after verifying the antecedents of the prospective buyers from the local police authorities.
- 5.2 Before registration of hot air balloon in the name of any person or firm full particulars thereof shall be obtained in the prescribed proforma and security vetting thereof shall be completed.
- 5.3 One time security clearance of the manufacturer, owner, operator shall be obtained from the State Police authorities before initial commencement of the operations.
- 5.4 The hot air balloon shall not be flown over entire air space covering VIP locations, defence installations, other restricted and prohibited areas. The hot air balloon shall also not be flown over an assembly of persons or over congested areas unless prior permission in writing is obtained from appropriate authorities. The restricted areas shall be notified by the DGCA from time to time in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- 5.5 The owner/operator shall be responsible for the safe custody, security and access control to the hot air balloon.
- 5.6 Normal security measures shall be ensured at the place of operation before each flight.
- 5.7 No photographic equipments should be taken in the balloons and no photography is permitted from the air.
- 5.8 No harmful objects, remote-controlled devices and sensors should be carried in the balloons.
- 5.9 Severe penalties/ action will be taken against the defaulters.

The proforma for furnishing particulars for the security clearance of the applicants is given in Appendix 'B'.

6. Conditions for Flight of a Balloon :

- 6.1 No hot air balloon shall be flown unless it possesses a valid Certificate of Airworthiness.
- 6.2 Hot air balloons engaged in commercial operations possessing a Type Certificate issued or validated by the DGCA or export C of A issued by a country whose airworthiness standards are equivalent and acceptable to DGCA may be granted C of A in Normal Category subject to compliance of requirements contained in CAR Section 2 - Series 'F' Part III and such other conditions as may be prescribed.
- 6.3 Hot air balloons used for personal flying by pilot(s) themselves, even if they carry sponsor's banners, need not have a Type Certificate. Such balloons shall be issued C of A in Special Category, Sub-Division Experimental category.
- 6.4 The Certificate of Airworthiness may remain valid for period as specified in CAR Section 2 Series 'F' Part III unless withdrawn or suspended earlier by the Director General if he is satisfied that reasonable doubt exists as to safety of the balloon in question.

The Certificate of Airworthiness of a balloon shall automatically stand suspended :-

- (i) If the balloon is not inspected and certified by Approved/licensed personnel at intervals prescribed in the approved Quality Control Cum Maintenance System Manual;
- (ii) If mandatory modifications/inspections as required by the Director General are not carried out;
- (iii) If modifications/repairs affecting airworthiness of the balloon and not approved by the manufacturer or by the Director General, are carried out; and

(iv) If a balloon suffers major damage or reveals any major defect which may render the machine unsafe for flight and shall remain suspended till such time the above deficiencies are removed.

6.5 Application for the issue of Certificate of Airworthiness shall be made to the Regional Airworthiness Office on the proper form, together with prescribed fee.

6.6 The Director General may renew the Certificate of Airworthiness in respect of a balloon for a maximum period of 12 months, after such inspection and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed. Application for renewal of Certificate of Airworthiness shall be made to the Regional Airworthiness Office together with the prescribed fee.

7. Certification :

7.1 No balloon shall be flown unless during 24 hours preceding the "lift off", it has been inspected in accordance with an approved schedule and the "Flight Release" issued, in the form as indicated in the appendix to this part of the CAR, by a person licensed/approved by the Director General.

7.2 After issue of the 'Flight Release', the preflight inspection shall have to be carried out before the first flight of the day by an appropriately licensed pilot, in accordance with a duly approved schedule. The pilot may also carry out the next higher inspections upto 25 hrs in accordance with duly approved schedules.

7.3 The higher than 25 hrs. inspection schedules and overhaul of the balloon and its components shall be carried out by holders of AME license, endorsed for a particular type of balloon, or persons specially approved or authorised to inspect/repair/modify and certify the airworthiness to the extent and scope of their license/approval permits.

7.4 The Certificate of Flight Release shall be made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be handed over to the pilot and the other shall be retained by the operator for a period of one month unless directed otherwise by DGCA.

8. The Director General may require the balloon to be weighed at the time of renewal of C of A or at any other time considered necessary.

9. Flight Manual :

The operating limitations, normal and emergency procedures and other pertinent information, peculiar to balloon operating characteristics are provided in the Flight Manual, furnished with each balloon or by a placard in the

balloon, that is clearly visible to the pilot. The cockpit and emergency checklist in laminated form shall be carried on board, unless they form a part of the Flight Manual. The Flight Manual where applicable, shall always be carried on board.

10. Service Documents, Manuals, Repair Schemes etc. :

10.1 Operators/organisations shall not undertake maintenance/overhaul of balloons unless they possess the manufacturers' maintenance/overhaul manuals and have an arrangement for receiving amendments thereto.

10.2 Repairs, modifications and overhaul of balloons and balloon components shall be performed in accordance with approved drawings/ repair schemes and overhaul instructions issued by the manufacturers. In certain cases, the Director General may accept repairs carried out conforming to standard aeronautical practices.

10.3 Compliance of Service Bulletins / Instructions, mandatory inspections/ modifications issued by the makers or the Director General will be governed by the requirements of Section 2 - CAR Series 'M' Part I.

11. Log Books :

11.1 A Journey log Book in respect of each balloon indicating details of every flight, like the date of flight, lift off time, total flight time, the places of departure and arrival, shall be maintained. The entries in the log book shall be certified by the pilots undertaking the flights.

11.2 A Balloon log book shall be maintained by every operator to keep a record of the flying, modification and other repair work carried out on the balloon.

11.3 Maintenance/Overhaul Records :

Records of inspection, overhaul, replacements, repairs, modifications and flight times shall be maintained in appropriate balloon log-book. The entries in the log book shall be certified by a licensed/approved person.

11.4 The records shall be preserved for the following periods :

(i) Balloon Log book Until such time the balloon is permanently withdrawn and its C of A is canceled by the Director General. Provided that in case the balloon is involved in an accident resulting in damage beyond economical repairs, the balloon log book shall be preserved for a period of two years after the

accident or for such period as required by a competent authority investigating the accident.

- (ii) Procedure/Worksheet pertaining to balloon For atleast five years after the completion of work.
- (iii) Records/Worksheet pertaining to lifed to lifed components One year after the component is permanently withdrawn from use.

12. Manual Requirements :

All balloon operators (including private operators) are required to prepare Quality Control-cum- Maintenance Systems Manuals for the guidance of their maintenance staff which will cover the following aspects :

- (i) All approved maintenance schedules and if they are too bulky then only the nomenclature of the approved maintenance schedules along with reference number and date of approval be quoted in the Manual and approved schedules be stocked separately.
- (ii) Safety requirements required to be followed during balloon handling on the ground or at the time of refueling/defueling, or while being housed inside a hangar.
- (iii) Procedure for keeping balloon log books/work sheets up-to-date and preservation of the same and individuals authorised to certify these documents.
- (iv) Procedure of recording/reporting of all defects observed during inspection or during flight and recording of rectification work undertaken.
- (v) Occasions when test flights would be carried out.
- (vi) Procedure of embodying mandatory modifications/ inspections.

Such Manuals are to be submitted to the Regional Airworthiness Office for the scrutiny. The manuals prepared by operators, other than private operators, shall have to be approved by DGCA, in accordance with CAR Section 2 - Series 'O' Part II.

13. Documents to be carried on Board in Flight :

- (1) Journey Log Book.
- (2) Radio-Telegraph apparatus, if applicable.
- (3) Certificate of Airworthiness.

- (4) Certificate of Registration
 - (5) Appropriate licence for the crew
 - (6) Cockpit and Emergency Check List in laminated form or Flight Manual (if applicable).
 - (7) Weight Schedule, duly approved and to be displayed at a prominent place.
14. All defects observed on ground and during flight shall be recorded in a register against which the rectification action taken, shall also be appended by a licensed/approved person and signed and dated. The requirements of CAR Section 2 - Series 'C' Part III shall be observed.
15. Instruments & Equipment to be carried by Balloons in flight:
- (1) Hand fire extinguisher of an approved type, in the main compartment carrying personnel.
 - (2) Safety harness for each personnel on board. The harness for each person need not be provided for gondola or basket type of balloons.
 - (3) A compass
 - (4) An altimeter
 - (5) A rate of climb indicator.
 - (6) First Aid Kit (as per CAR Series X Part III)
 - (7) A fuel quantity gauge.
 - (8) An envelop temperature indicator.
 - (9) Burner relighter.
 - (10) Two way R/T Communication Equipment.
16. The operation of the balloon flights will only be undertaken during day time under V.F.R conditions.
17. Test Flights :

The Test Flights shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of CAR Section 2 - Series 'T' Part II.

Sd/-
(R. C. Gupta)
Director of Airworthiness
for Director General of Civil Aviation

APPENDIX 'A'

CERTIFICATE OF "FLIGHT RELEASE"

Operator's Name_____

Balloon type_____ Regn. Mark VT-_____

I hereby certify that I have this day inspected the above balloon including its instruments and equipment and that I am satisfied that it is safe in every way for flight, till_____ provided the conditions of loading as specified by the DGCA are complied with.

Signature_____

Name_____

Authority/Licence No._____

Place of Issue_____

Time and date of Issue_____

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APPENDIX 'B'

PROFORMA DETAILING PARTICULARS FOR VERIFICATION BY APPLICANT FOR
MANUFACTURE, PURCHASE, REGISTRATION AND OPERATION OF MICROLIGHT
AIRCRAFT/HOT AIR BALLOONS

WARNING :- SUPPRESSION OF MATERIAL OR FACTUAL INFORMATION IN
THIS FORM SHALL BE A DISQUALIFICATION.

1. (a) Name of Applicant in Full (in Block Letters)

Surname	Name	Aliases, if any
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(b) Parentage :

Surname	Name	Aliases, if any
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2. Present address in full, including Police Station :

3. (a) Permanent address in full, including Police Station :

(b) If originally a resident of a country other than India,
address in that country and the date of migration to
India :

4. Nationality : _____

5. Date and place of birth, with full address :

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6. Profession/occupation after the age of 18 years :

7. Particulars of places, with full address, where the applicant has resided for more than a year during the preceding ten years :

8. (a) Particulars of relatives - Indians and non-Indians - working in foreign Missions, foreign organisations including foreign concerns, with full details :

(b) Particulars of relatives living abroad with their full address :

9. Is the applicant or any of his relatives a member of social or cultural organisation which is associated with or assisted by a foreign Mission or organisation?

10. Has the applicant visited a foreign country recently? If so, details thereof :

11. Has the applicant ever been arrested, prosecuted, kept under detention, or convicted by a court? Give details :

Certified that the information furnished in this proforma is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am aware that furnishing of wrong information or suppression of factual or material information will dis-entitle me from grant of the licence/permit.

DATE :

Signature of the Applicant

-END -