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SPA.HOFO.125 Airborne radar approaches (ARAs) to offshore locations — CAT operations

- (a) A commercial air transport (CAT) operator shall establish operational procedures and ensure that ARAs are only flown if:
- (1) the helicopter is equipped with a radar that is capable of providing information regarding the obstacle environment; and
 - (2) either:
 - (i) the minimum descent height (MDH) is determined from a radio altimeter; or
 - (ii) the minimum descent altitude (MDA) plus an adequate margin is applied.
- (b) ARAs to rigs or vessels in transit shall be flown as multi-pilot operations.
- (c) The decision range shall provide adequate obstacle clearance in the missed approach from any destination for which an ARA is planned.
- (d) The approach shall only be continued beyond decision range or below the minimum descent altitude/height (MDA/H) when visual reference to the destination has been established.
- (e) For single-pilot CAT operations, appropriate increments shall be added to the MDA/H and decision range.
- (f) When an ARA is flown to a non-moving offshore location (i.e. fixed installation or moored vessel) and a reliable GPS position for the location is available in the navigation system, the GPS/area navigation system shall be used to enhance the safety of the ARA.

AMC1 SPA.HOFO.125 Airborne radar approach (ARA) to offshore locations

Note: alternative approach procedures using original equipment manufacturer (OEM)-certified approach systems are not covered by this AMC.

GENERAL

- (a) Before commencing the final approach, the pilot-in-command/commander should ensure that a clear path exists on the radar screen for the final and missed approach segments. If lateral clearance from any obstacle will be less than 1 nm, the pilot-in-command/commander should:
- (1) approach to a nearby target structure and thereafter proceed visually to the destination structure; or
 - (2) make the approach from another direction leading to a circling manoeuvre.
- (b) The cloud ceiling should be sufficiently clear above the helideck to permit a safe landing.
- (c) Minimum descent height (MDH) should not be less than 50 ft above the elevation of the helideck:
- (1) the MDH for an airborne radar approach should not be lower than:
 - (i) 200 ft by day; or
 - (ii) 300 ft by night; and
 - (2) the MDH for an approach leading to a circling manoeuvre should not be lower than:
 - (i) 300 ft by day; or
 - (ii) 500 ft by night.
- (d) Minimum descent altitude (MDA) may only be used if the radio altimeter is unserviceable. The MDA should be a minimum of the MDH + 200 ft, and be based on a calibrated barometer at the

destination or on the lowest forecast barometric pressure adjusted to sea level (QNH) for the region.

- (e) The decision range should not be less than 0.75 nm.
- (f) The MDA/MDH for a single-pilot ARA should be 100 ft higher than that calculated in accordance with (c) and (d) above. The decision range should not be less than 1 nm.
- (g) For approaches to non-moving offshore locations, the maximum range discrepancy between the global navigation satellite system (GNSS) and the weather radar display should not be greater than 0.3 nm at any point between the final approach fix (FAF) at 4 nm from the offshore location and the offset initiation point (OIP) at 1.5 nm from the offshore location.
- (h) For approaches to non-moving offshore locations, the maximum bearing discrepancy between the GNSS and the weather radar display should not be greater than 10° at the FAF at 4 nm from the offshore location.

GM1 SPA.HOFO.125 Airborne radar approach (ARA) to offshore locations

GENERAL

- (a) General
 - (1) The helicopter ARA procedure may have as many as five separate segments: the arrival, initial, intermediate, final approach, and missed approach segment. In addition, the specifications of the circling manoeuvre to a landing under visual conditions should be considered. The individual approach segments can begin and end at designated fixes. However, the segments of an ARA may often begin at specified points where no fixes are available.
 - (2) The fixes, or points, are named to coincide with the beginning of the associated segment. For example, the intermediate segment begins at the intermediate fix (IF) and ends at the final approach fix (FAF). Where no fix is available or appropriate, the segments begin and end at specified points; for example, at the intermediate point (IP) and final approach point (FAP). The order in which the segments are discussed in this GM is the order in which the pilot would fly them in a complete procedure: that is, from the arrival through the initial and intermediate to the final approach and, if necessary, to the missed approach.
 - (3) Only those segments that are required by local conditions applying at the time of the approach need to be included in a procedure. In constructing the procedure, the final approach track, which should be orientated so as to be substantially into the wind, should be identified first as it is the least flexible and most critical of all the segments. When the origin and the orientation of the final approach have been determined, the other necessary segments should be integrated with it to produce an orderly manoeuvring pattern that does not generate an unacceptably high workload for the flight crew.
 - (4) Where an ARA is conducted to a non-moving offshore location (i.e. fixed installation or moored vessel), and a reliable global navigation satellite system (GNSS) position for the location is available, the GNSS/area navigation system should be used to enhance the safety of the ARA. This is achieved by using the GNSS/area navigation system to navigate the helicopter onto, and maintain, the final approach track, and by using the GNSS range and bearing information to cross-check the position of the offshore location on the weather radar display.