

	REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY	SACAA Private Bag X 73 Halfway House 1685
Tel: 083 461 6420 E-Mail: Matabae@caa.co.za	<u>NOTICE</u>	DATED: 22 March 2024

NOTICE ON INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF PART 91 04.24 (2)(c) OF THE CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS, 2011

1. Purpose of this General Notice

In line with the provisions of Part 11.01.3 of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 2011 (CARs), I am issuing a notice to the aviation industry on the interpretation and application provisions of Part 91.04.24 (2)(c) of the CARs.

2. Discussion

CAR 91.04.24 (2) (c) provides that:

“(2) No person shall operate the following helicopters over water unless such helicopter is certificated as an amphibian helicopter or for ditching or is equipped with permanent or rapidly deployable emergency flotation equipment–

(c) a performance Class 1 helicopter operating in a non-hostile environment at a distance from land equivalent to 30 minutes at normal cruising speed or 50 nautical miles, whichever is the lesser


The strict interpretation of this provision is that Class 1 helicopter operating, in a non-hostile environment, at a distance from land equivalent to 30 minutes at normal cruising speed or 50 nautical miles, is required to be fitted with a deployable emergency flotation equipment. It is impractical to expect floatation equipment to be fitted for such operations. This strict interpretation was not the intended application of this provision and same is further not aligned with Annex 6 of ICAO.

Therefore, the aviation industry in South Africa is notified that Class 1 helicopter operating in terms of Part 91.04.24 (2)(c) may operate over water without being required to have a permanent or rapidly deployable emergency flotation equipment, as long as the operator of such helicopter adheres to the perimeters stipulated

in CAR 91.04.24 (2) (c), that is, the helicopter flies at a distance of less than 30 minutes or less than 50 nautical miles from the land.

3. Decision by the Director of Civil Aviation

The SACAA is in the process of amending the abovementioned provisions of Part 91 of CARs to align with the spirit and purpose of Annex 6 ICAO, through CARCom processes. Therefore, the Director reserves the right to amend this notice should circumstances dictate the necessity thereof. Please note: when the said amendment regulation is approved by the Minister of Transport, this notice will no longer be applicable.

Issued by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)		
pp. 	Ms. POPPY KHOZA	22.03.3034
SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE