

APAC WATER AERODROME WORKING GROUP MEETING / 2

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 29 February to 2 March 2016

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING OF WATER
AERODROMES IN THE MALDIVES

WP/05

WASWG

Presented by Maldives

SUMMARY

- ◎ This Paper presents the Procedures and requirements for licensing of water Aerodromes and floating platforms in the Maldives

INTRODUCTION

- ① ASC 14-2 lays down the minimum requirements for site selection, floating platform dimensions and safety equipment, size of the water runway, transfer vessel (dhoni/boat) operation criteria, communication, VFR/IFR operations-question, visual aids to navigation, response time for rescue and fire fighting, manning levels for rescue and fire fighting, training levels for rescue and fire fighting, first aid kit and procedures for the removal , of the floating platform..
- ① This Circular has seen numerous amendments over the past few years but has helped in developing the seaplane operations in the Maldives.

1.1 General

- ASC 14-2 provides the minimum requirements for site selection, floating platform construction and installation, rescue and fire fighting equipment and facilitation at floating platform in order to meet the licensing requirements.

1.2 – Definition For This Part

‘Floating platform’ A defined platform anchored inside protected waters licensed under the Maldivian Civil Aviation Regulations for the purpose of embarkation and disembarkation of passengers or cargo by aircrafts;

‘Water aerodrome’ A defined area on land or water (including any buildings installations and equipment's) intended to be used either wholly or in part for the arrival, departure and movement of aircraft;

Channel’ A defined rectangular area on a water aerodrome, intended for the landing and take-off run of aircraft along its length;

‘

Resort agent' Person employed by the Aerodrome Licence holder who will be responsible for handling passengers at the aerodrome and to prepare the load sheet;

The resort agent shall have undergone some in house training to take such responsibilities and shall be trained for fire fighting and other safety matters.

'Nature reserved designated area' These are marine areas that are environmentally protected and preserved as reserves;

'Protected areas' These areas are usually located on the atoll ward side near islands, which is protected from large wave by the surrounding reef or lagoon;

1.3 – Application for Water Aerodrome

- No water aerodrome or floating platform shall be used for passenger embarking/ disembarking unless otherwise it is licenced by the Civil Aviation Authority.
- All the applications for Water Aerodrome and installation of floating platform shall be forwarded to Civil Aviation Authority .Upon making an application for the grant of a licence, the applicant shall pay a charge in accordance with MCAR-187.

- Information's that has to be submitted along with the application form are as below:
 - ❖ coordinates for each platform that is intended to install.
 - ❖ an aerial map of the operational area showing the position of the platforms and the landing strips.
 - ❖ No objection letter from the land lord of the proposed locality to use the intended lagoon/reef or protected water as a water aerodrome.
 - ❖ Safety Assessment report of the selected site.
 - ❖ Emergency Response Plan for the selected site.

1.4 General Requirements For Floating Platform

◎ Site Selection

- When selecting a site for water aerodrome and installation of floating platform, the following will be considered:
 - a. if the location of the proposed water aerodrome is inside protected waters
 - b. depth of sea bed on the proposed water runway and the size of aircraft intended to operation.
 - c. distance of water aerodrome from the servicing resorts and islands
 - d. maritime movements in the location,
 - e. navigable airspace,
 - f. effect on the surrounding community
 - g. available length of clear and safe water runway strip with respect to the size and type of aircraft intended for use

1.5 FLOATING PLATFORM DIMENSIONS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENTS

- Floating platform shall provide adequate support and buoyancy for the loads imposed by embarking/disembarking passengers and their luggage.
- The floating platform shall be inspected at regular intervals to check the structural conditions of platform and other safety equipment. Records of such inspections shall be kept and available for inspection by Civil Aviation Department, if needed.
- Each floating platform shall be equipped with the following minimum equipment in the interest of passenger safety and all the equipment except for the life buoy shall be contained in a red box which is fastened to the floating platform. The life buoys shall be easily accessible for use in case of an emergency.

- Equipment that shall be provided in the E/Box are;
 - 01 axe
 - 01 crow bar
 - 01 tin sniper
 - 01 harness cutting tool
- Equipment that shall be placed on the platform are:-
 - 30m life line rope
 - 02 life buoys
 - 01 flashing yellow light/beacon (if located outside the lagoon and in open sea)

- Location of emergency boxes shall be as follows:-

In normal circumstances where a floating platform is located adjacent to the island or when located outside the house reef the emergency box shall be placed on the floating platform itself.

Where a platform is located in open water and where it is difficult to maintain/police the equipment on the floating platform the provision of organizing where the emergency box should be located lies with the water aerodrome or floating platform certificate/license holder. (Such scenarios if/when implemented shall be communicated to the CAD and appended in the respective operational/emergency response plan for that location).

1.6 Size of Water Runway

- ◎ The dimensions of the water runway will depend on;
 - ❖ on the size of the aircraft in operation.
 - ❖ the performance characteristics of the aircraft
 - ❖ the clearance of approach path from obstacles.
 - ❖ Any obstacle in or out of water, on the water runway or taxi way, that may endanger safety shall be marked with a floating buoy.

1.7 Operational Requirements

- ① The facilities shall be made available for the use of all bonafide AOC holders, with the permission of the licence holder, such permission shall not be withheld unreasonably. The licence holder may charge for the use of the facility and such charges shall not be higher than US\$ 1.00 per 1000 kg or part thereof the MTOW of the aircraft operating.

- ⦿ The licence holder shall make available the Resort Agent, transfer dhoni and all equipment, including RFFs during such operations.

- ⦿ The licence issued by the Civil Aviation Department will cease to be valid if:
 - ❖ failure to pay the annual fees for the aerodrome licence, which shall be paid to Civil Aviation Department,
 - ❖ the contract with the land lord expires or cease to be valid (if applicable),
 - ❖ any of the mandatory equipment and facilities specified in this Circular lacks.

1.8 Transfer Dhoni

- ⦿ A mechanised dhoni/boat shall be available for the purpose of transferring passengers to and from the floating platforms to the respective resorts.
- ⦿ A dhoni/boat shall be at least 200 m away from the floating platform and water runway when the aircraft is ready to land or at take-off and shall not obstruct the water runway.
- ⦿ Instructions shall be given to the dhoni/boat captain about the direction of water runway, and the movements of the aircraft for taxi and the specific time of its arrivals.

1.9 Communication

- ① The aerodrome licensee shall ensure that the Pilot and Resort Agent are linked by the telephone or radio for giving flight details in advance allowing the Resort Agent to be prepared to attend the arriving flight. For communication during flight under VFR, it is recommended that each Resort Agent is equipped with suitable radio equipment capable of conducting two-way communication with the aeroplane. For this purpose the Resort Agent shall be suitably trained and authorised by the Department for the purpose.

1.10 IFR Operations

- Night Operations and operations under IFR conditions is NOT permitted to water aerodromes.

1.11 Visual AIDS

- ① A Wind Direction Indicator shall be fixed on land at a point that is in the nearest vicinity to the water runway and floating platform to enable the pilot to find the wind direction and have an indication of wind velocity. *For this purpose* a Wind Sock of sufficient size shall be installed to be visible from an aeroplane flying at a height of 200 meters. Details of the size of the Indicator are given at Appendix II for guidance

1.12 Response Time For Rescue and Fire and Fire Fighting

- ⦿ The operational objective of the rescue and fire fighting service shall be to achieve a response time not exceeding three (03) minutes to any point of each operational water runway, in optimum visibility and surface conditions.
- ⦿ When the platform is located outside the house reef or away in a lagoon the certificate holder shall determine a reasonable response time and establish this response time in the emergency Response Plan for that location.

- ◎ The Resort Agent shall be trained for fire fighting and rescue operations and shall be familiar with the aircraft. The Resort Agent shall be in attendance on the transfer Boat at takeoff and landing.

1.13 Manning Level for Rescue and Fire Fighting

- Manning levels will take into account the type and number of appliances in use at the floating platform, the method of operation of appliances and equipment and any other relevant details.

1.14 Training Requirement for Rescue and Fire Fighting

- All personnel involved in rescue and fire fighting duties must receive appropriate regular training in the use of equipment provided. This should include an operational exercise at least once per quarter and records of such training shall be made available to whenever an inspection from this Authority requests.

1.15 First Aid Kit

- ① The medical equipment commensurate with the category of aircraft operated must be readily available at the floating platform and arrangement shall be made to convey to incident scene as quickly as possible.

1.16 Removal of the platform

- ① The floating platform and the anchoring blocks shall be removed from the location within three months after revocation of the licence.

Action by the meeting

- Note the contents in this paper
- Discuss any relevant matters as appropriate