

Rules Watch

Under the microscope is Part 139 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASRs). What are the Part 139 rules and who do they apply to?

CASR Part 139 — Aerodromes

Subpart 139.H became effective on 1 May 2003 and specifies the requirements for providing aerodrome and fire fighting services (ARFFS). The regulations are supported by a Manual of Standards (MOS) that sets out the necessary technical standards, plus a series of Advisory Circulars (ACs) that provide guidance information intended to facilitate compliance.

The remaining subparts of Part 139 took effect on 2 May 2003. They prescribe the requirements for aerodromes used in air transport operations, and have a separate MOS and supporting ACs.

The Part 139 regulations cover several topics:

- general information, such as definitions, applicability, exemptions and aerodrome access
- requirements for certified aerodromes, including aerodrome certificates, aerodrome manuals, operation and maintenance



- requirements for registered aerodromes
- reporting officer and safety inspection requirements for certain other aerodromes
- obstacles and hazards

- aerodrome radio communication services, including statistical collection, frequency confirmation systems, and air-ground radio services
- requirements for aerodrome rescue and fire fighting services: definitions,



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applicability, functions, approvals, MOS, ARFFS provider compliance, conduct of operations, and administration.

The MOS for Part 139 covers:

- definitions, differences in standards, and the application of standards to aerodromes
- applying for an aerodrome certificate, and applying to register an aerodrome
- aerodrome information for AI
- physical characteristics
- obstacle restriction and limitation
- visual aids provided by aerodrome markings, markers, signals, signs and lighting
- operating standards for certified and registered aerodromes
- standards for other aerodrome facilities
- standards for aerodromes intended for small aeroplanes conducting air transport operations under CASR Part 135
- radio communication facilities provided by an aerodrome operator.

The MOS for Subpart 139.H refers specifically to ARFFS activities:

- definitions and differences in standards
- criteria for establishing or disestablishing ARFFS
- determining the category of the aerodrome
- vehicles and vehicle performance
- response times
- fire extinguishing agent performance criteria
- test equipment performance criteria
- providing ARFFS for published hours of operation
- safety hazard and risk assessment
- Interface arrangements with state and territory fire brigades and other third-party providers
- operational procedures/safety management
- ancillary equipment
- protective clothing
- reports of an accident or incident
- quality control

- recruitment of personnel
- competency levels and medical/physical fitness
- qualification training establishments.
- personnel staffing and training requirements
- facilities, facility maintenance plans, and service and facility management requirements
- change management systems
- interruption or change to level of operational service and contingency plans
- records, and document and data control
- applicant's organisation.

Projects are currently under way to improve the Part 139 rules. Stay in touch with developments through CASA webpage <http://rrp.casa.gov.au/casr/139.asp>.

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