



Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Instrument number CASA EX129/23

I, JOSEPH ANTHONY RULE, Acting Executive Manager, National Operations and Standards, a delegate of CASA, make this instrument under regulations 11.160, 11.205 and 11.245 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

[Signed J. Rule]

Joe Rule

Acting Executive Manager, National Operations and Standards

22 December 2023

CASA EX129/23 — Use of Basket Stretcher in SAR and Medical Transport Operations (Northern NSW Helicopter Rescue Service) Exemption Instrument 2023

1 Name

This instrument is *CASA EX129/23 — Use of Basket Stretcher in SAR and Medical Transport Operations (Northern NSW Helicopter Rescue Service) Exemption Instrument 2023*.

2 Definitions

In this instrument:

CASR means the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

manufacturer means Safety Equipment Technical Services Pty Ltd, Monbulk, Victoria, in its capacity as the manufacturer of the relevant litter.

Note The manufacturer produces the relevant litter based on a similar model 406 Basket Stretcher manufactured under a different part number by Lifesaving Systems Corporation, Apollo Beach, Florida, USA.

medical transport operation has the meaning given in the CASR Dictionary.

operator means Northern New South Wales Helicopter Rescue Service Pty Ltd, ARN 086990.

Part 133 MOS means the *Part 133 (Australian Air Transport Operations — Rotorcraft) Manual of Standards 2020*.

Part 138 MOS means the *Part 138 (Aerial Work Operations) Manual of Standards 2020*.

relevant helicopter means the Leonardo S.p.A AW139 helicopter operated by the operator.

relevant litter means the model 406 Basket Stretcher, part number 406-TS-200016, manufactured by the manufacturer and includes:

- (a) the manufacturer's SETS stretcher lift sling assembly, part numbers 406-LS-H and 406-LS-F; and
- (b) the manufacturer's restraint straps attached to the litter for securing a person to the litter.

relevant operation means one of the following operations conducted by the operator in which the pilot in command of a relevant helicopter carries and uses, or reasonably expects to use, a relevant litter for the carriage of a person as an external load:

- (a) a SAR operation;
- (b) a medical transport operation.

SAR operation is short for search and rescue operation, and has the meaning given in section 1.07 of the Part 138 MOS.

working load limit, for a relevant litter, means the maximum load that may be placed on the litter.

- (2) In this instrument, unless the contrary intention appears, other words and phrases have the same meaning as in the Part 133 MOS or the Part 138 MOS, as applicable to the relevant operation.

3 Application

This instrument applies, according to its terms, to the use by the operator, and the relevant operator's pilot in command, of a relevant litter, by a relevant helicopter, in a relevant operation.

Note The instrument has application only in relation to a relevant litter, and has no application in relation to the requirements of, or approval under, Part 21 of CASR, for fittings, lines, safety harnesses, restraint straps, rescue harnesses, rescue devices or any other equipment.

4 Exemption – CASR Part 133 – medical transport operations

- (1) The operator and the relevant pilot in command of a relevant operation are each exempted from the following provisions of CASR that would otherwise apply to each of them:

- (a) regulation 133.295;
- (b) subregulation 133.360(2),

to the extent of the requirement under section 5.06 of the Part 133 MOS that, for the use of a relevant litter in a medical transport operation, the litter must meet the requirements of, or be approved under, Part 21 of CASR.

Note In subsection (1):

- (a) regulation 133.295 of CASR concerns compliance with requirements under the Part 133 MOS relating to external load operations involving winching a person; and
- (b) subregulation 133.360(2) of CASR concerns compliance with requirements under the Part 133 MOS relating to equipment; and
- (c) section 5.06 of the Part 133 MOS concerns compliance with, or approval under, Part 21 of CASR; and
- (d) Part 21 of CASR relevantly concerns certification and airworthiness requirements for parts.

- (2) The exemption is subject to the conditions mentioned in section 6.

5 Exemption – CASR Part 138 – SAR operations

- (1) The operator and the pilot in command of a relevant operation are each exempted from the following provisions of CASR that would otherwise apply to each of them:

- (a) regulation 138.375;
- (b) subregulations 138.410(4), (5) and (6);
- (c) subregulation 138.465(3) and (4);

to the extent of the requirements under subsections 14.02(3) and 15.04(2) of the Part 138 MOS that, for the use of a relevant litter in a SAR operation, the litter must meet the requirements of, or be approved under, Part 21 of CASR.

Note In subsection (1):

- (a) regulation 138.375 concerns compliance with requirements under the Part 138 MOS relating to the wearing of seatbelts and other restraint devices in aerial work operations; and
- (b) subregulations 138.410(4), (5) and (6) concern compliance with requirements under the Part 138 MOS relating to external load operations; and
- (c) subregulations 138.465(3) and (4) concern compliance with requirements under the Part 138 MOS relating to equipment; and
- (d) Part 21 of CASR relevantly concerns certification and airworthiness requirements for parts.

- (2) The exemption is subject to the conditions mentioned in section 6.

6 Conditions

Compliance

- (1) The operator must ensure that each requirement under this section is complied with.

Compatibility

- (2) The relevant litter must be compatible with all other equipment fitted to, carried on, or used by the relevant helicopter, including other external load equipment and equipment associated with that other external load equipment.
- (3) The rotorcraft flight manual requirements for carriage of a person as an external load must be met.
- (4) The attachment rings of the manufacturer-supplied hoist sling for the relevant litter must be compatible with the helicopter hoist hook to which it will be attached and, in particular, must not be prone to causing hook reversal or dynamic rollout.

No modifications to the relevant litter

- (5) The relevant litter (and associated hoist sling and rings) must not be modified in any way from the manufacturer's versions.
- (6) The configuration of the relevant litter must not be changed in any way from the manufacturer's configuration.

Note Paragraph 7(c) directs the operator to include, in the operator's manuals, procedures to ensure compliance with the manufacturer's instructions for the relevant litter.

Authorised repairs

- (7) The relevant litter (and associated hoist sling and rings) must not be repaired by any person other than the manufacturer unless the person has the manufacturer's

specific written authorisation to carry out the repair.

Note Paragraph 7(c) directs the operator to include, in the operator's manuals, procedures to ensure compliance with the manufacturer's instructions for the relevant litter.

Working load limit

- (8) In a relevant operation, the working load limit of the relevant litter must not exceed 200 kilograms.

Crew training

- (9) Each member of the crew for a relevant operation must be trained in, and be thoroughly familiar with, how to:
 - (a) inspect the relevant litter before it is deployed to ensure that it is serviceable; and
 - (b) deploy and use the litter.

Note Paragraph 7(c) directs the operator to include, in the operator's manuals, procedures to ensure compliance with the manufacturer's instructions for the relevant litter.

Operational inspections

- (10) Before a flight in which the relevant litter will, or may, be used for the first time, a Place-In-Service inspection must be carried out.
- (11) Before each flight in which the relevant litter will, or may, be used, it must be inspected:
 - (a) to determine its serviceability; and
 - (b) to ensure that no dangerous projections or sharp edges are liable at any time to damage or interfere with the litter.

Note 1 The relevant litter includes restraint straps, hoist sling and attachment rings: see the definition of **relevant litter**.

Note 2 Paragraph 7(c) directs the operator to include, in the operator's manuals, procedures to ensure compliance with the manufacturer's instructions for the relevant litter.

- (12) After any flight in which the relevant litter was used, it must be inspected:
 - (a) to determine its continued serviceability; and
 - (b) to ensure that it had not been damaged in any way.

Inspections and maintenance

- (13) Any safety alerts, or revised instructions for continuing airworthiness (**ICA**), issued by the manufacturer, or by the original manufacturer Lifesaving Systems Corporation, must be complied with.
- (14) The relevant litter must be recertified every 12 months.

Note 1 The relevant litter includes restraint straps, hoist sling and attachment rings: see the definition of **relevant litter**.

Note 2 Paragraph 7(c) directs the operator to include, in the operator's manuals, procedures to ensure compliance with the manufacturer's instructions for the relevant litter.

Procedures and records

- (15) Procedures must be documented to ensure that records are kept of the following:
 - (a) the date of manufacture of the relevant litter;
 - (b) the date the relevant litter was placed in service;

Note The detail under paragraph (b) is used to determine the service life and retirement date of the relevant litter: see subsection 6(17).

- (c) each occasion on which the relevant litter was used;
- (d) how the relevant litter is stored, and when and how it is cleaned;
- (e) when the relevant litter was inspected and maintained, including details of any maintenance;
- (f) when any safety alerts, or revised ICA, are issued by the manufacturer, and what action was taken in response to them.

Labelling

- (16) If not already contained in the manufacturer's labelling, manufacturer-sourced information referenced in paragraphs (a) to (g) below must be displayed on a fabric label sewn to the back of the recumbent surface of the relevant litter, approximately in the region where a person's head would rest:
- (a) manufacturer's name: Safety Equipment Technical Services Pty Ltd;
 - (b) part number;
 - (c) serial number;
 - (d) date of manufacture;
 - (e) service life-limit date;
 - (f) authorised payload: working load limit of 200 kg;
 - (g) authorised number of persons: 1.

Note The serial number is the unique identification of the relevant litter.

Retirement

- (17) The metal structure and sling assembly of a relevant litter must not be used after the 10 year anniversary of the structure and assembly being first placed in service.

7 Direction — the operator

The operator must ensure that the operations manual contains:

- (a) a copy of this instrument; and
- (b) procedures to ensure compliance with the conditions in this instrument; and
- (c) procedures to ensure that each relevant litter is inspected, maintained, recertified, deployed and used in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Note At the date of this instrument, the manufacturer's instructions were set out in the Manufacturer Instruction Manual identified as MIM 200016, issued by the manufacturer, Issue 3 dated November 2022.

8 Direction — the pilot in command

The pilot in command of a relevant helicopter in a relevant operation must not commence the operation unless they are satisfied that the conditions under section 6 have been complied with.

9 Duration

This instrument is repealed at the end of 31 May 2025.

Note For regulation 11.250 of CASR, the directions in sections 7 and 8 cease to be in force at the end of 31 May 2025.