



Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Instrument number CASA EX20/25

I, DANIEL BERNARD O'HAGAN, Section Manager Drafting, Legal, International & Regulatory Affairs Division, a delegate of CASA, make this instrument under regulations 11.160, 11.205 and 11.245 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*.

[Signed D.B. O'Hagan]

Danny O'Hagan
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28 February 2025

CASA EX20/25 — Use of Radiocommunication Systems in Aerial Firefighting Operations (NSW Rural Fire Service) Instrument 2025

1 Name

This instrument is *CASA EX20/25 — Use of Radiocommunication Systems in Aerial Firefighting Operations (NSW Rural Fire Service) Instrument 2025*.

2 Duration

This instrument:

- (a) commences on 1 March 2025; and
- (b) is repealed at the end of 31 August 2025.

Note For the purposes of regulation 11.250 of CASR, the direction in section 6 ceases to be in force at the end of 31 August 2025.

3 Definitions

NSW RFS means the State of New South Wales represented by the NSW Rural Fire Service, ARN 805539.

NSW RFS aviation radio operator means a member of the NSW RFS or its staff who is assigned prescribed radiocommunication duties.

prescribed radiocommunication duties means the use of a radiocommunication system in support of aerial firefighting operations conducted by the NSW RFS.

4 Exemptions

- (1) A NSW RFS aviation radio operator is, while carrying out prescribed radiocommunication duties, exempt from compliance with regulation 64.040 of CASR to the extent that the person does not hold an aeronautical radio operator certificate but does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph 64.040(a) or (b).
- (2) A NSW RFS aviation radio operator is, while carrying out prescribed radiocommunication duties, exempt from compliance with regulation 91.625 of

CASR to the extent that the person transmits on a radio frequency described in paragraph 91.625(1)(a) without being authorised or qualified to do so as required under paragraph 91.625(1)(b).

- (3) The exemptions in subsections (1) and (2) are subject to the conditions mentioned in section 5.

5 Conditions

- (1) The NSW RFS aviation radio operator must, in the preceding 14 months, have successfully completed the NSW RFS training course for the use of aviation radiocommunication systems.
- (2) The NSW RFS aviation radio operator must have been assessed by the person holding, or acting in, the position of Executive Director, Operations, for the NSW RFS, or their delegate, as competent to transmit messages to pilots of aircraft and ground crew engaged in firefighting operations using aviation communication protocols.
- (3) The NSW RFS aviation radio operator must use only the aviation bandwidth VHF AM frequencies allocated to the NSW RFS by Airservices Australia and the Australian Communications and Media Authority.
- (4) The NSW RFS aviation radio operator must use the allocated aviation bandwidth VHF AM frequencies only for tactical aircraft-to-aircraft and air-to-ground communications.

6 Direction

The NSW RFS is directed to provide a copy of this instrument to each NSW RFS aviation radio operator before assigning the operator to prescribed radiocommunication duties.
