





Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Safely hiring a helicopter

You should hire a helicopter only from operators who meet their legal safety requirements.

Here are some things to check when you hire the helicopter:

Prior to the flight

- Ask to see the operator's current air operator certificate (AOC) or aerial work certificate (AWC).**
- Check that the AOC or AWC name matches the organisational trading name or the trading entity name.
- Check that the Australian company number (ACN) matches the ACN on the AOC or AWC.
- Check that the date of your operation is not after the AOC or AWC expiry date.
- CASA publishes a list of all air operator certificate holders on its website.

-  **You might also want to consider asking if the operator is insured.**
 - Check that the paperwork names the correct organisation, the helicopter being flown and the type of operations they are conducting.
 - Some operators may not insure their machines; however, they will require public liability insurance to carry out aerial work operations.

On the day of the flight

- Consider asking the pilot or operator to confirm they:**
 - have a commercial pilot licence
 - have a current 'Class 1' aviation medical certificate
 - comply with all of the CASA requirements such as key personnel, approvals and documentation.
- Pilots have certain obligations relating to fatigue, illness, medications, drugs and alcohol:**
 - Check that the pilot seems alert and is unaffected by fatigue, illness, medications, drugs and alcohol.
- Pilots have certain obligations relating to your safety as a passenger:**
 - Your pilot must give you a safety briefing prior to flight. This includes how your seatbelts operate, how to operate your emergency exits and what you need to do in the event of a forced landing.
- Pilots have certain obligations relating to weather conditions:**
 - Check that the pilot is satisfied that the weather is appropriate and good for flying.
 - Ask the pilot what they will do if the weather deteriorates.
 - In cases of extremely bad weather it is often best just to land in a safe area and wait for the weather to clear.
 - Your pilot might also consider changing the departure or arrival time to account for the weather.

During the flight

- Pilots have certain obligations relating to low level flight:**
 - The pilot must fly safely at all times. This includes flying at a safe height.
- Pilots have certain obligations relating to where they land:**
 - The pilot must land safely and not in a reckless or dangerous way.
 - The pilot might need permission from a landowner to land on their land.

After the flight

- If you have any reason to doubt the safety of your helicopter operator, report a safety concern to CASA on 131 757.**

The information in this brochure is guidance information only. It is intended to help people hiring a helicopter understand the types of questions to consider.