



# PROTOCOL

## (OPS.25) Air display approval

July 2024



### Acknowledgement of Country

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our offices are located and their continuing connection to land, water and community, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Inside front cover artwork: James Baban.

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# 1. Purpose

This protocol is for the assessment of an application made by the conductor of an air display under subregulation 91.180(1) of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (CASR). This also includes approval for all participants listed in the program of events, as is required under subregulation 91.180(2).

Although air displays are assessed and approved via subregulation 91.180(1) and (2), there are also various sub approvals for specific events that are explained throughout this protocol to ensure standardisation of the assessment process.

# 2. Concept and philosophy

Air displays involve the operation of aircraft near the ground and spectators, while engaged in various activities and manoeuvres. In many cases, activities will involve manoeuvres at low level that carry a heightened risk – such as low-level aerobatics. For this reason, the organisation, planning and administration of an air display is critical to ensure safe operations.

Air display approvals fall into 3 types:

1. small air display approval via a non-legislative instrument
2. large air display via a non-legislative instrument
3. complex on-going air display approvals (5 years) via a legislative instrument.

The rules governing air displays are not applicable to 'state aircraft' or aircraft used in military, customs or police services of a foreign country. Such aircraft, when operating at an air display, will coordinate participation with the display organiser.

# 3. Process

All administration tasks should follow standard regulatory service administration procedures (as applicable), in addition to the following:

- a. Applicants submit the [Approval to conduct Air Display](#) form (CASA-04-5700) to CASA for an approval under regulation 91.045.
- b. Regservices create a case in EAP to be assigned to a flying operations inspector.
- c. Regservices and the inspector should confirm that an EAP stop alert is not active.
- d. All associated CASA staff must be knowledgeable of, and competent with, Principle (OPS.25) Air display approval.
- e. The relevant sections of Worksheet (OPS.25) must be completed by the CASA inspector and saved as a PDF document in RMS, including:
  - i. the assessment summary
  - ii. the approval data sheet.
- f. If the display is OCTA, the flying operations inspector submits a NOTAM to Airservices Australia.
- g. The inspector must complete EAP in accordance with the EAP OAS Case Management - Regulatory Oversight Division (ROD) handbook (CASA-03-5501).
- h. Issue an approval under regulation 91.045 for the conduct of an air display.
- i. Regservices must receive the [Post display report form \(CASA-04-5701\)](#) from the display organiser within 14 days of the display.

## 4. List of supplements

Only the following supplements may be used in support of this protocol. The most recently approved versions will be found on the CASA intranet website. Approved forms are located on CASA's external website.

- [Principle \(OPS.25\) Air display approval](#)
- [Worksheet \(OPS.25\) Air display approval](#)

## 5. Scope

This protocol covers the assessment of an application made under regulation 91.180 by an air display organiser. The protocol will also include the assessment of other activities, conducted as part of the air display, which require an approval under regulation 91.045.

The protocol does not cover an air display conducted solely by State aircraft. Refer to Part 1, section 4 of the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*.

## 6. Competency requirements

To conduct the assessment, the flying operations inspector must have successfully completed the foundation training and advanced regulatory assessment training programs.

A flying operations inspector must also complete the following:

- air display assess and approve training
- conduct a small or large air display assessment under the observation of a qualified flying operations inspector
- for an on-going approval via legislative instrument, conduct an assessment under the observation of a qualified flying operations inspector.

## 7. Associated legislation

**Table 1. Legislation associated with this protocol**

Document	Title
Part 2 of Airspace Regulations 2007	Airspace management
Part 61 of CASR	Flight crew licensing
Part 91 of CASR	General operating and flight rules
Part 91 MOS	General Operating and Flight Rules
CASA EX08/21	Low-level Operations for Air Displays and Aerobatics Practice Exemption 2021
CASA EX81/21	Part 91 of CASR – Supplementary Exemptions and Directions Instrument 2021

## 8. Guidance references

Table 2. Guidance material relevant to this protocol

Document	Title
AC 91-21	Air displays
AC 1-04	Registered operator responsibilities for continuing airworthiness
AC 131-02	Manned free balloons - Operations

## 9. Revision history

Amendments/revisions of this protocol are recorded below in order of most recent first.

Table 3. Revision history table

Version No.	Date	Parts/Sections	Details
1.2	July 2024	All	Reformat to latest template and minor updates
1.1	May 2023	Various	Minor updates to align with current templates. Inclusion of Manned Free Balloon AC.
1.0	November 2022	All	First release