

Safety Recommendation Number:	IRLD2021005
AAIU Event Reference:	IRL00917016
AAIU Report Number:	2021-008
Date of Publication of Safety Recommendation:	5 November 2021
Safety Recommendation Status:	Implemented, closed

Safety Recommendation:

The IAA should require operators who have exemptions from Rules of the Air, to provide a full safety case, including details of the acceptable navigation data sources to be used, as part of the exemption application and review processes.

Response:

On 02 February 2022, and in subsequent engagement with the AAIU, the IAA provided the following response to this Safety Recommendation:

"The IAA accepts this safety recommendation.

Background Information:

- *The applicable Rules of the Air in Ireland are the Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA) as specified in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 923/2012.*
- *Article 4 of this regulation allows competent authorities to grant exemptions from SERA requirements for certain activities of public interest, including search and rescue.*
- *The SAR operator holds an Article 4 exemption (which is granted on the basis of an application). This facilitates necessary SAR operations, including training, which in some cases could not be accomplished within the SERA requirements.*

Actions Taken:

- *In the aftermath of the accident, the SAR operator updated the onshore and offshore procedures and associated crew training based on detailed review and risk assessment. This activity was focused on the FMS Route Guides and crew training in the appropriate use of these guides. The revised operator's (OM-C) procedures were accepted by the IAA in 2018.*
- *During 2021, the SAR operator conducted a comprehensive review of the safety cases to support required exemptions from SERA for the SAR operation. The ensuing new exemption application to the IAA was supported by a full safety case, including risk assessment and details of the acceptable navigation data sources to be used. A revised SERA Article 4 exemption was granted by the IAA in December 2021.*

- *IAA internal procedures (SRD.115, ASD.260) have been reviewed and updated to require that any operator that applies for permissions based on exemptions from the SERA provides a full safety case, including details of the acceptable navigation data sources to be used, as part of the exemption application.*

Outstanding Actions (SAR):

- *Action completed.*
- *The application of the exemptions will be monitored as part of the on-going oversight programme of the SAR operator.*

Wider applicability of the safety recommendation:

- *The updated IAA internal procedures require that any operator (including activities other than SAR e.g. aerial firefighting) applying for permissions based on exemptions from the SERA provides a full safety case, including details of the acceptable navigation data sources to be used, as part of the exemption application.*

Outstanding Actions (Non-SAR):

- *We are reviewing the procedures for granting other permissions/exemptions regarding deviations from the SERA, e.g. for aerial firefighting and environmental control missions, and will introduce/revise national directions as applicable. This will be completed by Q3 2022."*

On 22 December 2022, the IAA provided the following updated response to this Safety Recommendation:

"Background Information:

- *The applicable Rules of the Air in Ireland are the Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA) as specified in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 923/2012.*
- *Article 4 of this regulation allows competent authorities to grant exemptions from SERA requirements for certain activities of public interest, including search and rescue.*
- *The SAR operator holds an Article 4 exemption (which is granted on the basis of an application). This facilitates necessary SAR operations, including training, which in some cases could not be accomplished within the SERA requirements.*

Actions Taken:

- *In the aftermath of the accident, the SAR operator updated the onshore and offshore procedures and associated crew training based on detailed review*

and risk assessment. This activity was focused on the FMS Route Guides and crew training in the appropriate use of these guides. The revised operator's (OM-C) procedures were accepted by the IAA in 2018.

- During 2021, the SAR operator conducted a comprehensive review of the safety cases to support required exemptions from SERA for the SAR operation. The ensuing new exemption application to the IAA was supported by a full safety case, including risk assessment and details of the acceptable navigation data sources to be used. A revised SERA Article 4 exemption was granted by the IAA in December 2021.*

- IAA internal procedures have been reviewed and updated to require that any operator that applies for permissions based on exemptions from the SERA provides a full safety case, including details of the acceptable navigation data sources to be used, as part of the exemption application."*

AAIU Comment:

The AAIU notes the IAA's response of 02 February 2022.

The AAIU considers the status of this Safety Recommendation to be 'In Process of Implementation'.

The AAIU notes the IAA's response of 22 December 2022.

The AAIU consider the status of this Safety Recommendation to be 'Implemented, closed'.