

Safety Recommendation Number:	IRLD2025005
AAIU Event Reference:	IRL00922036
AAIU Report Number:	2025-009
Date of Publication of Safety Recommendation:	11 November 2025
Safety Recommendation Status:	In process of implementation

Safety Recommendation:

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) should, in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders, conduct a review of infrastructure and procedures for helicopter operations at certified/licensed aerodromes in Ireland, in order to determine the risks related to helicopter operations and implement appropriate mitigations.

Response:

In a letter dated 09 February 2026, The Irish Aviation Authority provided the following response to Safety Recommendation IRLD2025005:

The IAA accepts this safety recommendation.

Actions taken (IAA):

- Review of Infrastructure and Procedures for Helicopter Operations
- During 2024 and 2025, as part of the oversight cycle, the IAA conducted a review of infrastructure and procedures for helicopter operations at certified and licensed public use aerodromes. This review included coordination with relevant aerodrome operators and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs).
- The review of licensed private use aerodromes commenced in 2025 and will be completed in 2026.
- Risks
 - At the certified and licensed public use aerodromes, Safety Management System (SMS) processes are used to identify and mitigate risk associated with helicopter operations.
 - At licensed private use aerodromes there is no requirement for a formal SMS, however these aerodromes do have a basic SMS including formal safety policies and risk assessment procedures.
 - Mitigations are being put in place to address any identified risks associated with helicopter operations.
- Mitigations
 - To mitigate the risk posed to helicopters using non-standard approach/take-off routings at certified/licensed aerodromes in general, and to avoid any ambiguity relating to the matter, the following actions have been taken,
 - Shannon Airport
 - The aerodrome operator and the ANSP have revised their respective procedures to ensure that, in the absence of a designated FATO/TLOF, all helicopters operating at the aerodrome are required to use the runway as the FATO/TLOF.

- The aerodrome operator will arrange for the promulgation of appropriate information in AIP Ireland to address the above requirements at the earliest available AIRAC Effective Date.
 - Other Certified or Licensed Aerodromes
 - In line with regulatory requirements, in the absence of a designated FATO/TLOF, all helicopters operating at a certified or licensed aerodromes are required to use the runway as the FATO/TLOF. The IAA has issued a reminder to all certified/licensed aerodromes to ensure that existing procedures comply with this requirement.
 - The aerodrome operators will arrange for the promulgation of appropriate information in AIP Ireland to highlight the above requirement at the earliest available AIRAC Effective Date.
 - IAA
 - The IAA utilises a risk-based oversight for determining the oversight programme. This AAIU report and the safety recommendation (IRLD2025005) have been taken into consideration to support the risk assessment and will be included in the Authority’s Aerodromes and ANSD Divisions 2026/2027 oversight programme.
 - Additionally, although outside scope, but in the spirit of the recommendation, the IAA published Aeronautical Notice T.16 which sets out the requirements for the use of uncertified / unlicensed aerodromes at night within the Shannon FIR.

Actions Planned (certified/licensed aerodromes):

No.	Actions	Target Date
1	All certified/licensed aerodromes are to arrange for the promulgation of appropriate information in AIP Ireland to clearly state that in the absence of a designated FATO/TLOF, all helicopters operating at the aerodrome are required to use the runway as the FATO/TLOF. The IAA will monitor the implementation of this requirement.	31/12/2026
2	The review of infrastructure and procedures for helicopter operations at licensed private use aerodromes will be completed in 2026.	30/10/2026
3	The IAA Aerodromes and ANS Divisions oversight programmes for 2026 and 2027 will include an additional focus on the management of the risks associated with helicopter operations at and in the vicinity of aerodromes.	31/12/2027

AAIU Comment:

The AAIU considers this Safety Recommendation as 'In process of implementation'.