



HSAC RP 2016-04

STANDARDIZATION OF HELIDECK INFORMATION PLATES

May 2016

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PURPOSE

This Recommended Practice (RP) was developed to describe best practices for standardized provision of important offshore helicopter landing area information to air operators by offshore helicopter landing area owners.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) publishes the Airport/Facility Directory (abbreviated A/FD), which is now identified as Chart Supplement in the United States. It is a pilot's manual that provides comprehensive information on airports, large and small, and other aviation facilities and procedures.

Chart Supplements are a listing of data on record with the FAA on all open-to-the-public airports, seaplane bases, heliports, military facilities and selected private use airports specifically requested by the Department of Defense (DoD) for which a DoD instrument approach procedure has been published in the U.S. Terminal Procedures Publication, airport sketches, NAVAIDs, communications data, weather data sources, airspace, special notices, VFR waypoints, Airport Diagrams and operational procedures.

Because of the importance of maintaining up-to-date information about the often changing environment around landing areas (e.g., vertical obstructions to air traffic, such as cranes, can be erected at short notice), Chart Supplements (A/FD) are reviewed on a frequent basis.

Additional information provided about obstructions, limitations, NAVAIDs, radio frequencies and other elements impacting safe flight to an onshore airport or heliport depicted in Chart Supplements are also important for safe flight to and from offshore helidecks.

In order to fulfill a comparable information need for offshore locations, helideck owners either provide raw information to the air operators servicing their helidecks, or they publish and distribute Facility & Helideck information plates to ensure flight crews are provided basic as well as safety related information for their intended offshore landing site.

Historically, obstacle strikes on or around offshore helidecks have contributed significantly to the number of offshore helicopter incidents. Besides minimizing the amount of obstacles near a helicopter landing area and assuring obstacle free sectors and engineering out the potential for obstacle strikes, information about the environment surrounding an offshore landing area is crucial for the situational awareness of flight crew and needs to consist of more than just obstacle information. This is critically important to flight crews so that prior to arrival at the intended offshore landing area, they can be prepared and informed of site specific hazards and considerations. By providing this information in a standardized format the crews are better positioned to utilize the information provided as well as maximize their attention to safely operating the aircraft instead of dealing with distractions caused by unexpected facility



configurations. Additionally, concise helideck information is considered one of the necessary mitigations to prevent wrong deck landings.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

This Recommended Practice provides a set of data elements that is considered crucial information for safe flight operations to and from offshore helidecks. It also provides a smaller set of data elements that could be provided by helideck owners to helicopter operators in order to further enhance situational awareness. Both sets of data elements are combined in a standardized template Helideck Information Plate that can be used by helideck owners to populate and distribute for use by helicopter operators.

Mandatory fields on the Helideck Information Plate shall be entered in the format and unit(s) shown in Appendix 1. These mandatory fields cover the information flight crews need in order to be able to safely execute flights to and from the offshore landing location. If one or more of these mandatory fields are not applicable to the specific offshore landing location, the corresponding field shall contain 'NA'. If the information to be provided in a mandatory field is not known, the word 'unknown' shall be entered for clarity. When completing a Helideck Information Plate for a specific location, the definitions in Appendix 1 are to be used in order to standardize the information provided to flight crew. All mandatory information fields shall be entered before a Helideck Information Plate under this Recommended Practice can be considered completed and ready for distribution.

In addition to mandatory fields, there are non-mandatory fields incorporated in the template. Offshore landing location owners are encouraged to share the information for these non-mandatory fields; however a Helideck Information Plate can be distributed without completion of these non-mandatory fields. If one or more of these non-mandatory fields are not applicable to the specific offshore landing location, the corresponding field shall contain 'NA'. If it is elected to omit information for one or more of the non-mandatory fields, the contents of the empty fields should contain a '-' in order to assure that during completion of the template a decision was made not to enter information in the field(s).

If the number of characters in a specific block exceeds to space allocated for the data element on the helideck information plate, please write '**see Block 28**'. On the backside (second page) of the helideck information plate there is ample space for text that is considered overflow from other fields in the template. In Block 28 'Additional Information', start with referencing the block number and identifier followed by 'continued.' in bold (e.g. '**17. Remarks continued.** '). After this entry the remainder of the data for the block mentioned can be added.

Once an offshore helicopter landing location owner has completed a Helideck Information Plate and it is considered to be ready for distribution, it shall be shared in hardcopy and/or softcopy with regional helideck operators.

APPENDIX 1: MANDATORY DATA ELEMENTS ON HELIDECK INFORMATION PLATE

<u>Field Number</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Unit/Format</u>
2	Position	The Latitude/Longitude of the center of the TDPM/Aiming Circle on the offshore helideck	Degrees, minutes and seconds with N/S/E/W (N324455/W0804557 for the coordinate 32°44'55"N, 80°45'57"W)
3	Location Name	The Operating Company's assigned name identifying the offshore location hosting the helideck	Alphanumeric (Olympus)
4	Helideck Identifying Marking	What is the marking on the Helideck that the pilot can use to identify this location? E.g. Lease block number, platform name, Well name/number, etc.	Free text
5	Operating Company	The name of the Operating Company (or Owner) of the offshore helideck	Alphanumeric (Shell Exploration & Production Company)
6	Helideck D-Value	D-value of the design helicopter for which the helideck was designed (in feet and in meters)	99 ft. / 99m
7	Helideck Elevation	Elevation of helideck AMSL (in feet and in meters)	999 ft. / 999m AMSL
8	Lease Block Number	US GOM Lease Block Numbering System	XX999X (GB172B)
9	VHF Radio Frequency	VHF Radio Frequency to be used to contact the offshore helideck	999.99 MHz (122.05 MHz)
10	Helideck Dimensions	Actual dimensions of the load bearing surface of the helideck (in feet and meters)	99 x 99 ft. / 99 x 99m
11	Helideck Max Allowable Weight	Maximum Allowable Weight on the helideck surface (in thousands of pounds and metric tons)	99 / 99.9t (28 / 12.8t for 28,300 lbs. and 12,800kg)
12	Region	The greater region/area of operations where the helideck is located	Alphanumeric (Gulf of Mexico)

13	Helideck Limitations	Limits to be applied by aircraft type for take-off (T) or landing (L) where there are significant 5:1 infringements or where turbulence is a major factor. For the latter The winds at which limitations take effect are shown along with limits to be applied for different aircraft types.	Free text
14	TDPM/Aiming Circle	Does helideck marking scheme include an aiming circle that provides full D-value obstacle clearance when pilot maneuvers helicopter with seat above the aiming circle?	Y/N/Displaced 0.1D
15	Weather/ATIS/AWOS Information	Automated or manual weather observation information	ID/Tel/Frequency (ID: KGHB / TEL: 504-321-2911 / FREQ: 118.025)
16	Marking Standard	Standard by which deck is marked	CAP 437/HSAC RP/Other
18. Services	18.1 Helicopter Refueling (Jet-A)	Is a helicopter refueling system available at the helideck? If a specific telephone number is to be used to confirm fuel availability, also enter into this field.	Y/N (999) 999-9999
	18.2 Helicopter Starter Equipment	Is helicopter starter equipment available?	Y/N
	18.3 Helicopter Towing Equipment	Is helicopter towing equipment available?	Y/N/Helicopter Type (Y / S-92)
	18.4 Helideck Status Lights	Are helideck status lights installed at helideck?	Y/N
19	Installation Picture	Picture(s) of helideck in relation to platform/vessel	Pictures

20		Helideck Non-Compliances	Any known non-compliances with either CAP437 or HSAC RPs	Free text
21. Parking Area Information	21.1	Parking Area Type	Parking Area Type as defined in HSAC RP 2016-01. 1) Parking Area, 2) Limited Parking Area or 3) Push-In Parking Area	PA/LPA/PIPA
	21.2	Parking Area D-Value	D-value of the design helicopter for which the parking area was designed (in feet and in meters)	99 ft. / 99m
	21.3	Parking Area Dimensions	Actual dimensions of the load bearing surface of the parking area (in feet and meters)	99 x 99 ft. / 99 x 99m
	21.4	Parking Area Max Allowable Weight	Maximum Allowable Weight on the parking area surface (in thousands of pounds and metric tons)	99 /99.9t (28 /12.8t for 28,300 lbs. and 12,800kg)
	21.5	Parking Area Procedures	A short description regarding specific procedures for parking a helicopter in the available parking area	Free text
24		Issue Date	Date of issue of the current revision of the helideck information plate for this specific location	DD-MMM-YY (01-JAN-2016)
25		Revision Number	Incremental number for any new revision of the helideck information plate for this specific location	Rev-999 (Rev-001)
26		Helideck Picture	Picture of full helideck showing all markings	Picture
27		Platform Schematic	Schematic diagram of helideck, depicting the following minimum information: 1) 210 degree OFS 2) 150 degree LOS 3) Flare tower(s) 4) Cranes + Reach Circle 5) Any other obstacles relevant for flight operations to/from helideck	Diagram
30		Contact Telephone Number	The Operating Company's assigned telephone number to contact regarding helideck operations to the specific offshore helideck	Area Code, Phone Number ((555) 123-4567)

APPENDIX 2: NON-MANDATORY DATA ELEMENTS ON HELIDECK INFORMATION PLATE

<u>Field Number</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Unit/Format</u>
1	Operating Company Logo	The logo of the Operating Company (or Owner) of the offshore helideck	Picture 
17	Remarks	Any other information the helideck owner wants to share that is not covered under any other field on the helideck information plate.	Free text
22	NDB Frequency	A non-directional (radio) beacon (NDB) is a radio transmitter at a known location, used as an aviation or marine navigational aid. The frequency is the one to be selected in the aircraft to use the NDB as a nav-aid.	(9)999 KHz (325 KHz)
23	NDB call sign	Each NDB is identified by a one, two, or three-letter Morse code call sign.	Alphanumeric + Morse code (MS __ __ . . .)
28	Additional Information	Overflow field from any other field on the Helideck Information Plate (see instructions in RP main text)	Free text
29	Link to NOTAM site	If Operating Company distributes NOTAMs, this field will show the hyperlink to the web-based source of NOTAMs for the helideck	Hyperlink

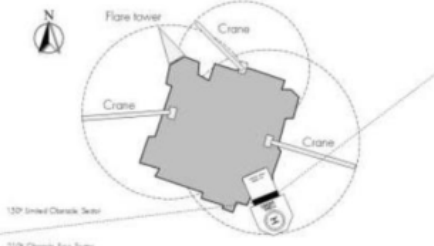
APPENDIX 3: TEMPLATE HELIDECK INFORMATION PLATE

1. Operating Company Logo	2. Position		3. Location Name	
	4. Helideck Identifying Marking			
5. Operating Company	6. Helideck D-Value	7. Helideck Elevation		8. Lease Block Number
9. VHF Radio Frequency	10. Helideck Dimensions	11. Max Allowable Weight		12. Region
13. Limitations		14. TPDM/Aiming Circle		15. Weather/ATIS/AWOS
		16. Marking Standard		
17. Remarks		18. Services		
		Helicopter Refueling: : Heli Starter Equip : Heli Towing Equip : Helideck Status Light :		
19. Installation Picture				
20. Non-Compliances		21. Parking Area Information		
		Type : D-Value : Dimensions : Max Allowable Weight : Procedures :		
22. NDB Frequency	23. NDB call sign	24. Issue Date		25. Revision number

26. Helideck Picture	27. Platform Schematic
28. Additional information	
29. Link to NOTAM site	
30. Helideck Contact Telephone Number	

APPENDIX 4: EXAMPLE COMPLETED HELIDECK INFORMATION PLATE

1. Operating Company Logo 	2. Position N 27 32.76 W 92 26.60 4. Helideck Identifying Marking GB426A SHELL	3. Location Name AUGER	
5. Operating Company SEPCO	6. Helideck D-Value 68 ft (70.7m)	7. Helideck Elevation 130 ft (39.6m)	8. Lease Block Number GB 426-A
9. VHF Radio Frequency 130.55 MHz	10. Helideck Dimensions 69x69ft (71x71m)	11. Max Allowable Weight 28,300 lbs (12.8t)	12. Region Gulf of Mexico
13. Limitations Parking: - Combined Weight of Helicopters on helideck and parking area not to exceed 42,000 lbs (19.0 t). - Aircraft on parking area shall be completely tied down at all times.		14. TPD/Aiming Circle Y/Displaced 0.1D 16. Marking Standard HSAC RP 2016-01	15. Weather/ATIS/AWOS 118.375 MHz ID: KQT8 (504)425-8011
17. Remarks - Shell procedures in place, including 20 minute, 5 minute and 'Green Deck' calls - Largest approved helicopter type is Sikorsky S-92		18. Services Helicopter Refueling : Y ((504)425-5001) Heli Starter Equip : N Heli Towing Equip : N Helideck Status Light : Y	
19. Installation Picture 			
20. Non-Compliances NA		21. Parking Area Information Type : PIPA D-Value : 68 ft (70.7m) Dimensions : 65x65 ft (19.8x19.8m) Max Allowable Weight : 28,300 lbs (12.8t) Procedures : See Block 30	
22. NDB Frequency NA	23. NDB call sign NA	24. Issue Date 19-MAY-2016	25. Revision number Rev. 002

26. Helideck Picture 	27. Platform Schematic 
28. Additional information 21. Parking Area Information - Procedures continued - Push in for wheeled aircraft using manpower - EC135 permitted to hover taxi to and from area	
29. Link to NOTAM site http://www.avnotice.com	30. Helideck Contact Telephone Number 504-425-5001