



United States Department of the Interior
Office of Aviation Services
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DOI OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES MEMORANDUM (OPM) NO. 13-32

Subject: ACETA Helicopter Performance

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Supersedes: OPM 11-32 dated December 19, 2011

Distribution: A, B, & C

Expiration Date: December 31, 2013

1. **Purpose.** This OPM modifies Interior aviation policy (351 DM 2, 351 DM 3) regarding the *Aerial Capture, Eradication, and Tagging of Animals (ACETA) Handbook* helicopter performance standards.
2. **Authority.** This policy is established by the Director, Department of the Interior, Office of Aviation Services (OAS) in accordance with the provisions of Departmental Manual 112 DM 12: 350 DM 1 and Secretarial Order 3250 dated September 30, 2003.
3. **General.** The *ACETA Handbook* language no longer meets departmental needs. This language was written several years ago when we were using a small number of aircraft for a limited resource programs. In recent years, these programs have grown and the types of aircraft available are numerous. Several of these aircraft have the performance necessary to meet programs needs but do not qualify under the current policy, which is based on engine horsepower.
4. **Policy.**
 - A. Delete the current *ACETA Handbook* Chapter 4.5 language which reads:

4.5 Helicopter Performance. Helicopters provided for any ACETA operation will have the following minimum engine configurations:

 - A. **Sea Level to 4,000 Feet Density Altitude (DA).** Minimum performance for a reciprocating engine will be 205 horsepower, for non-turbocharged.
 - B. **Above 4,000 to 7,000 Feet (DA).** Minimum performance for a reciprocating 305 horsepower non-turbocharged, or 220 horsepower turbocharged, or turbine engine of at least 317 shaft horsepower.

- C. **Above 7,000 Feet (DA)**. Minimum performance for a reciprocating engine will be 270 horsepower with turbocharger or turbine engine of at least 400 shaft horsepower.

NOTE: Special OAS approval for aircraft other than above may be requested where justified and warranted.

- B. Add the revised *ACETA Handbook* Chapter 4.5 language which reads:

4.5 Helicopter Performance. Helicopters provided will meet the minimum performance in at least one of the following categories:

- A. **Sea Level to 4,000 Feet Density Altitude (DA)**. Hover Out of Ground Effect (OGE) at 4000 feet DA.
- B. **Above 4,000 to 7,000 Feet (DA)**. Hover Out of Ground Effect (OGE) at 7000 feet DA.
- C. **Above 7,000 to 9000 Feet (DA)**. Hover Out of Ground Effect (OGE) at 9000 feet DA.
- D. **Above 9000 Feet (DA)**. The aircraft must meet Hover Out of Ground Effect performance for the highest anticipated DA.

Minimum aircraft requirement: Three seats, one pilot and two passenger seats and 180 horsepower output.

NOTE: Special DOI OAS approval for aircraft other than above may be requested where justified and warranted.

In order to safely and successfully complete the mission, the helicopter must be capable of meeting the performance required. Payload, hover ceiling, airspeed, and fuel requirements need to be considered in selecting the proper aircraft. Use actual aircraft, pilot, passenger, cargo weights, and required fuel to determine if the aircraft meets the hover OGE performance.



Director, Office of Aviation Services