

Helicopter Terrain Awareness Warning System (HTAWS) MANDATE COMPLIANCE GUIDE



Since 2003 there have been on average 12 fatal HEMS accidents per year—or 1 fatal accident every month.¹

2003

AC 27-1B Certification of Normal Category Rotorcraft (Changes 1-3 Incorporated) and AC 29-2C Certification of Transport Category Rotorcraft (Changes 1-3 Incorporated).

SEPTEMBER 2008

Before the House Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure, FAA Director of Flight Standards, John Allen, announced that the agency had initiated the formal rulemaking process that would address several key industry best practices—including HTAWS—to raise the bar on helicopter safety.²

APRIL 2009

DECEMBER 2008

TSO-C194 HTAWS Published

FEBRUARY 2006

The NTSB issued Safety Recommendation A-06-15, which asked the FAA to do the following:

- Require [EMS] operators to install [TAWs] on their aircraft
- In response, the FAA indicated that, before it could require that HEMS be equipped with TAWs, a technical standard order (TSO) was needed to specify an acceptable TAWs for helicopters

APRIL 2012

FAA released draft guidance outlining the technical requirements for a widely expected mandate that will require the installation of terrain awareness and warning systems (TAWs) on all helicopter EMS (HEMS) aircraft.



International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST) goal to reduce the worldwide helicopter accident rate by 80% in 10 years.⁴

2016

FAA mandate publication date (estimated).³

JUNE/JULY 2013

JUNE/JULY 2016

3 year compliance period to end (estimated).⁵

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE INSTALLING HTAWS:

1. Is the HTAWS, TSO C194 compliant?
2. How does the system technically deal with nuisance alerts?
3. Does the system have a wire database (transmission lines and towers)?
4. What is required to install a solution and get it signed off/certified? STC, AML STC, ACO Assisted Field Approval, etc.?
5. What companies/operators have installed the system, and what have the results been?

For more information please visit sandel.com/helitaws or call 1-424-23-HTAWS.

**All information subject to change without notice.*

1 University of Chicago Aeromedical Network Study, Ira Blumen.

2 HTAWS to be mandated on all EMS helicopters, Stuart Lau. Professional Pilot, June 2012

3 DOT March 2013 Significant Rulemaking Report. Article #5 Air Ambulance & Commercial Helicopter Operations; Safety Initiatives & Miscellaneous Amendments

4 International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST), "Calendar Year 2006 Report", prepared by U.S. Joint Helicopter Safety Analysis Team; dated July 2010

5 GAMA/AEA Rotorcraft Forum. FAA & Rotorcraft Directorate session discussion. January 2013

See what's next

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