

Helicopter Terrain Awareness & Warning System (HTAWS) FAA FINAL RULE TO IMPROVE HELICOPTER SAFETY



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

2003

Deadliest year on record with 5 accidents, claiming 21 lives.³

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

FAA requires airframe specific STCs installation for all HTAWS or achievement of an AML STC.

(Update and details on FAA requirement on reverse side)

2013

FAA issued a final rule that requires helicopter operators, including air ambulances, to have stricter flight rules and procedures, improved communications, training, and additional on-board safety equipment.³

FEBRUARY 2014



HEMS must use latest technology to avoid terrain & obstacles.⁴

FEBRUARY 2017



DECEMBER 2008

TSO-C194 HTAWS Published.

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FAA released draft guidance outlining the technical requirements for a widely expected mandate that will require the installation of terrain awareness and warning systems (TAWS) on all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

APRIL 2014

All operators will be required to use enhanced procedures for flying in weather, at night and landing in remote locations.⁴

FEBRUARY 2018

HEMS must equip with flight data monitoring systems.⁴

1 University of Chicago Aeromedical Network Study, Ira Blumen.

2 FAA Fact Sheet – http://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=15794

3 Press release – FAA Initiatives to Improve Helicopter Air Ambulance Safety, February 20, 2014.)

4 Full FAA Ruling [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0982; Amdt. Nos. 91-330; 120-2; 135-129]

http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/rulemaking/recently_published/media/2120-AJ53.pdf

See what's next

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FAA Final Rule to Improve Helicopter Safety

All Part 135 Helicopter Operators' Requirements:

- Equip with radio altimeters
- Occupants wear life preservers
- Equip with 406 MHz ELT
- Use higher weather minimums when identifying an alternate airport in a flight plan
- Require pilots are tested to handle flat-light, whiteout, and brownout conditions and demonstrate competency in recovery from an inadvertent encounter with IMC

HEMS operators' requirements:

- Equip with HTAWS
- Equip with FDMS
- 10 or more aircraft establish operations control centers
- Institute pre-flight, risk-analysis programs
- Pilots in command hold an instrument rating
- Highest obstacle along route identified and documented before departure
- Comply with VFR weather minimums, IFR operations at airports/heliports without weather reporting, procedures for VFR approaches, & VFR flight planning.
- Use Part 135 weather requirements flight crew time limitations when medical personnel are on board
- Conduct safety briefings or training for medical personnel

Be Proactive

Ask questions.

We encourage you to be proactive and educate yourself on not only the FAA ruling, but also the options available to fulfil the requirements for the ruling.

Don't wait!

The FAA examined helicopter air ambulance accidents from 1991 through 2010 and determined 62 accidents that claimed 125 lives could have been mitigated by implementing February's rule.

"This rule is a significant advancement in helicopter safety," said FAA Administrator Michael Huerta. "This rule will help reduce risk and help pilots make good safety decisions through the use of better training, procedures, and equipment."

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 warning/alerting (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 the latest updates on HTAWS, the Full FAA Ruling, FAA Ruling Fact Sheet, HTAWS Comparison Sheet, HTAWS FAQs, please visit www.sandel.com/HTAWS or email helitaws@sandel.com or call **1-424-23-HTAWS (4-8297)**.

See what's next

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