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FREE BALLOON PILOT LICENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pursuant to Regulation 41 of the MCAR 1996, the Director general may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, grant balloon pilot licence authorising the holder to act as a flight crew member.
- 1.2 This AIC sets forth a means that would be acceptable to DCA for purpose of obtaining such licence.

2. APPLICABILITY

- 1.3 The provision of the free balloon pilot licence apply to free balloon using hot air or gas.

3. DEFINITION

Balloon is a non-powered driven lighter than air aircraft

4. LICENCE REQUIREMENT

1.4 *Age*

The applicant shall be not less than 16 years of age,

1.5 *Medical fitness*

The applicant shall hold a current Class 2 Medical Assessment

1.6 *Knowledge*

The applicant shall have demonstrated a level of knowledge appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of a free balloon pilot licence, in at least the following subjects:

1.6.1 *Air Law*

Rules and regulations relevant to the holder of a free balloon pilot licence; rules of the air; appropriate air traffic services practices and procedures;

4.3.2 *Aircraft General Knowledge*

Principle of operation of free balloon system and instruments;
Operating limitations of free balloons; relevant operational information from the flight manual or other appropriate document.
Physical properties and practical application of gases used in the free balloons;

4.3.3 *Flight Performance And Planning*

Effects of loading on flight characteristics; mass calculations;
Use and practical application of launching, landing and other performance data, including the effect of temperature;
Pre-flight and en-route flight planning appropriate to operations under VFR; appropriate air traffic services procedures; altimeter setting procedures; operations in areas of high-density traffic;

4.3.4 *Human Performance And Limitations*

Human performance and limitations relevant to the free balloon pilot;

4.3.5 *Meteorology*

Application of elementary aeronautical meteorology; use of, and procedures for obtaining, meteorological information; altimetry;

4.3.6 *Navigation*

Practical aspects of air navigation and dead reckoning techniques; use of aeronautical charts;

4.3.7 *Operational Procedures*

Use of aeronautical documentation such as AIP, NOTAM, aeronautical codes and abbreviations;
Appropriate precautionary and emergency procedures, including action to be taken to avoid hazardous weather, wake turbulence and other operating hazards;

4.3.8 *Principles of Flight*

Principles of flight relating to free balloons

5. **EXPERIENCE**

The applicant shall have completed not less than 16 hours of flight time as a pilot of free balloons including at least eight launches and ascents of which one must be solo;

The applicant shall have gained, under appropriate supervision, operational experience in free balloons in at least the following areas:

- pre-flight operations, including balloon assembly, rigging, inflation, mooring and inspection;
- techniques and procedures for the launching and ascent, including appropriate limitations,

emergency procedures and signals used:

- collision avoidance precautions;
- control of a free balloon by external visual reference;
- recognition of, and recovery from, rapid descents;
- cross-country flying using visual reference and dead reckoning;
- approaches and landings, including ground handling;
- emergency procedures.

If the privileges of the licence are to be exercised at night, the applicant shall have gained, under appropriate supervision, operational experience in free balloons in night flying.

6. SKILL

The applicant shall have demonstrated the ability to perform as pilot-in-command of a free balloon, the procedures and manoeuvres described in with a degree of competency appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of a free balloon pilot licence, and to:

- operate the free balloon within its limitations;
- complete all manoeuvres with smoothness and accuracy;
- exercise good judgement and airmanship;
- apply aeronautical knowledge; and
- maintain control of the free balloon at all times in a manner such that the successful outcome of a procedure or manoeuvre is never seriously in doubt.

7. PRIVILEGES

The privileges of the holder of a free balloon pilot licence shall be to act as pilot in – command of any free balloon provided that the licence holder has operational experience in hot air or gas as appropriate.

Before exercising the privilege at night, the licence holder shall have complied with the requirement specified in para. 5 above.

This circular is issued for information, guidance and necessary actions.

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