



Number 29 | January 2009

Carriage of Agency Personnel in State Fleet Aircraft during Contractor Check Flights.

For information

Contracts for all State Fleet aircraft require the contractor to conduct a compliance check flight (check flight) if the aircraft has not flown in the preceding six days.

The purpose of the check flight is to confirm the proper operation of the aircraft and aircraft systems including avionics, communication and GPS etc. Additionally, aircraft contracted to deliver a firebombing service are required to include a drop procedure (firebombing helicopters are also required to perform a hover fill procedure) to ensure firebombing systems comply with contract performance standards.

These check flights are **not** considered to be Agency flights and are flown at the expense of the contractor.

Comment

It is recognised that having appropriately accredited Agency personnel participate in a check flight can, in some situations, assist the checking of some aircraft systems.

However, in order to ensure that the Agencies and Agency personnel are not inadvertently subjected to a higher level of risk, the following protocols for check flights have been established.

The protocols apply to all State Fleet aircraft in which agency personnel are permitted to fly. This provision does not include Type 1 helicopters during check flights and Restricted Category aircraft ie Single Engine Air Tankers, Erickson S64 Aircranes.

- Only currently accredited agency Air Attack Supervisors or Air Observers are approved to participate in check flights.
- Approved personnel may only participate in the check flight if their line manager has given authorisation.
- Approved personnel may only participate in check flights if agreed by the contractor or their representative (i.e. pilot).
- Only one approved person may participate in any individual check flight.

- If the contractor chooses to use a company employee or sub-contractor to participate in a check flight then approved personnel will not participate.
- Check flights are required to be flown if the aircraft has not flown in the preceding six days. They are not to be delayed because an approved person is not available to accompany the flight on the due day.
- Prior to the commencement of the check flight, the name of the approved person participating in a flight must be provided to the State Air Desk.
- Normal flight following requirements apply during check flights.

Contact for further information

Barry Scott
Aviation Services Manager
State Aircraft Unit
9412 4888