SECTION Q LOW-LEVEL RATING

Appendix Q.1 Low-level rating flight test

1. Flight test requirements

An applicant for a low-level rating flight test must demonstrate the following:

(a) knowledge of the topics listed in clause 2, which are relevant to the endorsements that are being assessed during the test;

(b) ability to conduct the activities and manoeuvres mentioned in clause 3, within the operational scope and under the conditions mentioned in clause 4, to the competency standards required under section 12 of this MOS that are relevant to the endorsements that are being assessed during the test.

2. Knowledge requirements

For paragraph 1 (a), the topics are the following topics:

(a) privileges and limitations of a low-level rating and each of the endorsements included in the test;

(b) flight review requirements;

(c) the limitations of GNSS;

(d) wind effect at low level and associated flying conditions;

(e) analysis of actual and forecast weather relevant to low-level operations;

(f) effect of mountainous terrain on airflow and associated flying conditions;

(g) assessment of the geographical characteristics of an area where flying operations are to be conducted to ensure the task can be completed safely;

(h) hazards associated with low flying and how to identify them prior to and during a low-level operation;

(i) effects of extreme environmental conditions on pilot health and performance;

(j) effects of fatigue and physical health on pilot performance;

(k) risk assessment techniques;

(l) managing risks at low level;

(m) aircraft performance, including:

(i) maximum rate turning; and

(ii) minimum radius turning; and

(iii) best angle of climb; and

(iv) best rate of climb; and

(v) 1 engine inoperative performance and helicopter manoeuvring (if applicable).

3. Activities and manoeuvres

Note For paragraph 1 (b), the flight test includes all of the following activities and manoeuvres. The sequence set out here is not necessarily intended to direct the order of activities and manoeuvres.

3.1 Pre-flight

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes C2, LL-A and LL-H.

(a) plan a low-level operation;

(b) identify hazards and manage risks;

(c) ensure performance capability of the aircraft;

(d) consult and brief all stakeholders about the proposed operation;

(e) perform pre-flight actions and procedures.

3.2 Ground operations, take-off, departure and climb

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes A1, A2, A3, C3, H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, and NAV.

(a) complete all relevant checks and procedures;

(b) plan, brief and conduct take-off and departure procedures.

3.3 En route cruise

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes A3, H5, LL-A, LL-H and NAV.

Conduct appropriate checks and procedures before descending below 500 ft AGL.

3.4 Test specific activities and manoeuvres

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes LL-A, LL-H (primary), LL-M, LL-SO and LL-WR (as required).

(a) navigate at low level;

(b) identify and use escape routes;

(c) identify, and operate in the vicinity of, powerlines and wires;

(d) operate in hilly terrain;

(e) manage wind effects, sloping terrain, false horizons and sun glare;

(f) for the aeroplane low-level endorsement, do the following:

(i) conduct steep turns, maximum rate turn and minimum radius turn;

(ii) conduct procedure turns;

(iii) recover from approach to stalls – level and turning;

(iv) recover from high energy and low energy unusual attitudes;

(v) for a test that is conducted in a single-engine aeroplane:

(A) recover from a wing drop at the stall; and

(B) perform a forced landing;

(vi) for a test that is conducted in a multi-engine aeroplane, manage an engine failure;

(g) for the helicopter low-level endorsement, do the following:

(i) conduct steep turns;

(ii) manoeuvre the helicopter at low level and conduct flight at various speed and configurations;

(iii) for a flight test that is conducted in a single-engine helicopter, perform a forced landing;

(iv) for a flight test that is conducted in a multi-engine helicopter, manage an engine failure;

(v) perform quick stop manoeuvres into wind and downwind;

(vi) recover from high energy and low energy unusual attitudes;

(h) for the aerial mustering endorsement, do the following:

(i) plan a stock mustering operation;

(ii) manoeuvre the aircraft in all planes below 500 ft AGL;

(iii) perform climbing, descending, low-speed and high-speed manoeuvres;

(iv) perform reversal turns, decelerations and steep turns;

(v) conduct stock mustering operations;

(i) for the sling operations endorsement, do the following:

(i) prepare for an external sling load operation;

(ii) plan an external sling load operation and conduct pre-flight briefings;

(iii) operate the aircraft during external load operations;

(iv) manage abnormal and emergency situations during external load operations;

(j) for the winch and rappelling operations endorsement, do the following:

(i) plan a winch or rappelling operation and conduct pre-flight briefings;

(ii) operate the helicopter during a winch or rappelling operation;

(iii) manage abnormal and emergency situations during a winch or rappelling operation;

(iv) conduct post-flight activities.

3.5 Descent and arrival

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes A3, H5 and NAV.

Plan and conduct an arrival and circuit joining procedures.

3.6 Circuit, approach and landing

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes A3, A4, H2, H3 and H4.

(a) conduct a low-level circuit, approach and landing;

(b) perform after landing actions and procedures.

3.7 Shut down and post-flight

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes A1, C2 and H1.

(a) park, shutdown and secure the aircraft;

(b) complete post-flight administration.

3.8 General requirements

Note The relevant competency standards are in unit codes LL-A, LL-H, NTS1 and NTS2.

(a) maintain an effective lookout;

(b) maintain situational awareness;

(c) assess situations and make appropriate decisions;

(d) set priorities and manage tasks;

(e) maintain effective communication and interpersonal relationships;

(f) recognise and manage threats;

(g) recognise and manage errors;

(h) recognise and manage undesired aircraft state;

(i) communicate effectively using appropriate procedures for the airspace being used for the test;

(j) manage the aircraft systems required for the flight;

(k) manage the fuel system and monitor the fuel plan and fuel usage during the test.

4. Operational scope and conditions

4.1 The following operational scope applies to the flight test:

(a) managing an aircraft system that is not required for the flight is not an assessable item unless it is used by the applicant;

(b) conduct a low-level operation;

(c) the applicant is only required to demonstrate competency in the activities and manoeuvres mentioned in paragraphs 3.4 (f) to (j) that are applicable to the endorsements covered by the flight test;

(d) emergencies and abnormal situations relating to aircraft systems, powerplants and the airframe are simulated and limited to those described in the AFM.

4.2 The following conditions apply to the flight test:

(a) activities and manoeuvres are performed in accordance with published procedures;

(b) the aircraft must be certified for the operations that apply to the endorsement the flight test is for;

(c) conducted by day under the VFR.