

Technical Recommended Practice

RP 001

Calibration of Offshore Passenger/Baggage/Freight Scales

Purpose:

The calibration of scales used for the weighing of passengers, baggage & freight for carriage in offshore helicopters is vital for ensuring the correct weight of an aircraft. Calibration of scales is a requirement under CAP437 – Standards for Offshore Helicopter Landing Areas Appendix K. Scales should be calibrated on a 6 monthly basis however consideration would be given to offshore locations with minimum flights when a 12 month calibration period may be considered.

Calibration:

Where possible the ideal means of calibration is for the manufacturer or a specialist provider to carry out the calibration. However, it is accepted that this process may be difficult on certain platforms or on vessels which may not visit port on a regular basis.

Where calibration by the manufacturer or supplier cannot be carried out the following procedure may be used by a suitable trained and competent person to determine and accurate calibration of the scales:

- Using a set of independently calibrated test weights follow the test procedure.

OR

- Procure a set of hand held digital scales capable of measuring at least 50kgs
- Have these digital scales calibrated by a recognized standards agency.
- Store these scales in a controlled environment on the offshore location.

When the passenger/baggage scales require calibration use the following procedure:

- Select several practical items to be used as test weights (gym weights etc).
- Individually weigh these items against the handheld digital scale and mark the actual weight on each test weight.
- Starting with the smallest weight place on the centre of the scale platform and record the weight in the appropriate column on Form HCA-FRM-070 Rev 01 – Offshore Scales Calibration Form attached to this RP.
- Follow the same procedure and place the test weight on the top right, top left, bottom right & bottom left of the platform and record the figures on the table along with the weight deviation.
- Add all 5 figures together and divide by 5 to attain the average deviation. If the deviation is more than 0.5% of the test weight then the scales fail the calibration. Using the form in Excel will automatically calculate the figure.
- Should there be more than 3 failures (no consecutive) across the range of the scales then the scales require calibrating by the manufacturer and should not be used for items involved in helicopter transport.
- The form should be signed, dated and retained for inspection when required.

Caveats:

- Any line “fail” with an average difference in excess of 0.2% automatically fails the complete calibration.
- Test weights should be used evenly across the ranges.
- The maximum period without a manufacturer/supplier calibration should be 2 years.

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