

To all Offshore Duty Holders/Vessel/MODU Operators:

CAP437 Edition 9.1 Appendix L MMHEL Compliance

UK CAA published CAP437 – Standards for offshore helicopter landing areas Edition 9 Amendment 01/2026 on 7 January 2026. Contained within this edition is the new Appendix L Master Minimum Helideck Equipment List (MMHEL) – UK Specific Version. The MMHEL provides a reference document for the dealing with unserviceability of safety critical equipment related to the operation of offshore helidecks.

As this Appendix is included in CAP437 there is an expectation from UK offshore helicopter operators that Duty Holders of assets with helicopter landing areas have taken the contents of Appendix L into consideration within their helicopter operations for their specific assets.

As stated in CAP437 Appendix F the UK offshore helicopter operators have discharged their responsibilities for the inspection and certification of offshore helidecks to HCA, therefore the oversight of the contents of CAP437, including Appendix L, falls under the remit of HCA.

Taking cognisance of discussions at industry meetings prior to the publication of Appendix L, HCA recognises and accepts that many of the unserviceabilities and mitigations stated in Appendix L are covered in other documents held by Duty Holders, therefore, some Duty Holders feel there is no merit in replicating these within their respective helicopter operations manual as suggested in CAP 437 paragraph L.6:

L.6 Where applicable, the helideck owner should include the MHEL in the Helideck Operations Manual (HOM) for each facility.

As part of the HCA biennial inspection, HCA Inspectors will be seeking compliance with paragraph L.6, however, if the Duty Holder advises that the items are covered elsewhere the following will apply:

The asset Duty Holder will be directed to an HCA online form which will detail the contents of Appendix L Table 1. This form will provide the ability for the Duty Holder to enter the corresponding asset documentation reference against the Table 1 item. This should be completed prior to the biennial visit. The Inspector will then carry out a sample audit of the cross references during the inspection to ensure compliance.

Should you have any questions on this issue please do not hesitate to contact HCA on info@helidecks.org

Regards
For and behalf of HCA



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