

 <p>NCAA NAMIBIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA</p> <p>NAMIBIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p> <p>AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR</p>	<p>Executive Director Namibia Civil Aviation Authority Private Bag 12003 Ausspannplatz WINDHOEK</p>
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MINIMUM HEIGHTS – NAMCAR PART 91 AMENDMENT

1. This AIC replaces AIC A08/2023 titled Minimum Heights

PURPOSE

2. This Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) is issued to advise pilots and operators of the implications of the amendment to **NAMCAR Part 91** regarding minimum safe altitudes. The amendment introduces provisions for flight below 500 feet above ground level (AGL) under specific conditions.

BACKGROUND

3. Previously, aircraft operating under **Part 91 – General Operating and Flight Rules** were required to maintain a minimum altitude of 500 feet AGL over non-congested areas, except when necessary for take-off or landing. Effective **01 October 2024**, the rule has been revised to allow increased operational flexibility while it is essential that this rule is not misused to maintain safety and minimising disturbance to the public.

REQUIREMENTS

4. The new provisions encompass the below restrictions and critical operating considerations:
 - a. **Minimum Altitude over Non-Built-Up Areas:** Aircraft **may operate below 500 feet AGL**, provided that such operation:
 - i. Does **not create a hazard** to persons or property on the surface; and
 - ii. Does **not cause nuisance** to persons or property on the ground.
 - iii. At a height and in a manner that allows **safe operation** in the event of an **engine failure**.
 - b. **Congested Areas:** Aircraft must not fly **over congested areas** of towns, cities, settlements, or open air assemblies at a height of less than **1 000 feet above the highest obstacle** within a radius of 2 000 feet from the aircraft.
 - c. **Open-Air Assemblies of Persons:** Aircraft must not circle or repeatedly fly **over open-air assemblies of persons** at a height of less than **3 000 feet above the highest obstacle** within a radius of 2 000 feet from the aircraft.

- d. **Take-off, Landing, and Emergency Operations:** The above restrictions do not apply during **take-off, landing, or emergency operations** requiring flight below the specified minima.

GAME PARKS AND SANCTURIES

5. Pilots are reminded of the requirements to maintain 3 000 feet above game parks and certain designated protected areas as per the Regulations Relating to Nature Conservation Government Notice 240 of 1976 as amended, Regulations relating to the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area, 2012, and AIP ENR 5.6.

CAUTION

6. Pilots are reminded of the critical and significant hazard of low flying:
- a. **Reaction times** and options in the event of an **emergency** are limited.
 - b. There can **be hidden obstacles** or wires increasing the chances of CFIT.
 - c. Low level flights over property, persons, or animals are considered **a hazard and/or nuisance**.

OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

7. Pilots-in-command **must exercise sound judgement** when operating below 500 feet, ensuring compliance with the hazard and nuisance provisions. Commercial operators **must update operations manuals** to reflect their minimum restrictions which may be above the minimum legally required as per 121.08.23 and 135.08.23. Enforcement action may be taken against operations that contravene the intent of the regulation, particularly were low flying causes danger or public disturbance.

ENQUIRIES

8. All queries relating to this AIC should be directed to:

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