

Dropping of explosives from helicopters

As an organization aiming to promote the highest level of aviation safety worldwide, IFALPA is opposed to the dropping of explosives from helicopters. The Federation, however, recognizes that this practice is routinely carried out in a number of countries, whether for commercial reasons or in connection with agricultural, horticultural, forestry, avalanche control, or pollution control activities.

IFALPA therefore issues the following recommendations:

1. Any flight involving the dropping of explosives should be subject to a risk assessment reviewed and approved by the State of the operator.
2. The crew involved should have received suitable initial and recurrent training related to this type of operation and to the types of explosives involved.
3. The flight operations manual should contain, for each stage of the flight (including refuelling), detailed procedures for the secure stowage and handling of the explosives used, under both normal and emergency conditions.
4. The flight should not take place over populated areas.
5. Only personnel who are essential to the activity should be on board during these activities.
6. The type of fuse and the method of initiation of the explosives should leave no possibility of detonation whilst the device is on or near the helicopter.
7. The procedures for activating and releasing the explosives should be approved by the State of the operator.
8. Any incident or safety concern should be immediately reported to the State of the operator.