

SCHEDULE 6B

(Regulation 57B)

Free Balloon Pilot Licence

1. Requirements for the issue of the Free Balloon Pilot Licence are as follows:

- (a) the applicant shall be not less than 16 years of age;
- (b) the applicant shall have demonstrated a level of knowledge appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of a free balloon pilot licence, in at least the following subjects:

Air law

- (i) rules and regulations relevant to the holder of a free balloon pilot licence; rules of the air; appropriate air traffic services practices and procedures;

Aircraft general knowledge

- (ii) principles of operation of free balloon systems and instruments;
- (iii) operating limitations of free balloons, relevant operational information from the flight manual or other appropriate document;
- (iv) physical properties and practical application of gases used in free balloons;

Flight performance, planning and loading

- (v) effects of loading on flight characteristics; mass calculations;
- (vi) use and practical application of launching, landing and other performance data, including the effect of temperature;
- (vii) pre-flight and *en route* flight planning appropriate to operations under Visual Flight Rules; appropriate air traffic services procedures; altimeter setting procedures; operations in areas of high-density traffic;

Human performance

- (viii) human performance relevant to the free balloon pilot including principles of threat and error management;

Meteorology

- (ix) application of elementary aeronautical meteorology; use of, and procedures for obtaining, meteorological information; altimetry;

Navigation

- (x) practical aspects of air navigation and dead-reckoning techniques; use of aeronautical charts;

Operational procedures

- (xi) use of aeronautical documentation such as AIP, NOTAM, aeronautical codes and abbreviations;
- (xii) appropriate precautionary and emergency procedures, including action to be taken to avoid hazardous weather, wake turbulence and other operating hazards;

Principles of flight

- (xiii) principles of flight relating to free balloons;
 - (xiv) communication procedures and phraseology as appropriate to Visual Flight Rules operations and on action to be taken in case of communication failure;
- (c) the applicant shall have completed not less than 16 hours of flight time as a pilot of free balloons including at least eight launches and ascents of which one must be solo.
- (d) the applicant shall have gained, under appropriate supervision, operational experience in free balloons in at least the following areas:
- (i) pre-flight operations, including balloon assembly, rigging, inflation, mooring and inspection;
 - (ii) techniques and procedures for the launching and ascent, including appropriate limitations, emergency procedures and signals used;
 - (iii) collision avoidance precautions;
 - (iv) control of the free balloon by external visual reference;
 - (v) recognition of, and recovery from, rapid descents;
 - (vi) cross-country flying using visual reference and dead-reckoning;
 - (vii) approaches and landings, including ground handling; and
 - (viii) emergency procedures;
- (e) where the privileges of the Free Balloon Pilot Licence are to be exercised at night, the applicant shall have gained, under appropriate supervision, operational experience in free balloons in night flying;
- (f) where passengers are to be carried for remuneration or hire, the holder of the Free Balloon Pilot Licence shall have completed not less than 35 hours of flight time including 20 hours as a pilot of a free balloon;
- (g) the applicant shall have demonstrated the ability to perform as pilot in command of a free balloon, the procedures and manoeuvres described in paragraph (d) with a degree of competency appropriate to the privileges granted to the holder of a free balloon pilot licence, and to—
- (i) recognize and manage threats and errors;
 - (ii) operate the free balloon within its limitations;

- (iii) complete all manoeuvres with smoothness and accuracy;
 - (iv) exercise good judgement and airmanship;
 - (v) apply aeronautical knowledge; and
 - (vi) maintain control of the free balloon at all times in a manner such that the successful outcome of a procedure or manoeuvre is assured; and
- (h) the applicant shall hold a current Class 2 Medical Assessment.
2. (a) The privileges of the holder of a Free Balloon Pilot Licence shall be to act as pilot in command of any free balloon provided that the licence holder has operational experience in hot air or gas balloons as appropriate.
- (b) Before exercising the privileges at night, the licence holder shall have complied with the requirements specified in paragraph 1(e).

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