



National Resource Sharing Centre

Helicopter aircrew member

Functional Area

Aviation

Core Capability Area

Control

Role Summary

Some agency personnel undertake helicopter aircrew roles. An aircrew member must operate in accordance with the requirements of the aircraft operator.

The aircrew member for a specific mission* must be:

- qualified for the task (qualifications approved by the individual aircraft operator)
- approved for the role and assigned by the individual aircraft operator
- familiar with both the aircraft and the operations manual of the aircraft operator. Helicopter aircrew members may hold either:
 - a full qualification, which qualifies them to perform a range of aircrew functions

or

- a single unit of competency relating specifically to the function they are to perform.

* These missions may involve fire response, however in the interest of maintaining an inclusive, all-hazards approach, it is necessary to emphasise the vital role that aviation positions such as these can play in combatting severe weather events of all kinds. It is also necessary to highlight the contemporary emerging shift in staffing to rely on those personnel from supporting agencies who may not have an express need to hold any fire training. In this way, personnel from wider supporting agencies can engage in key roles that allow them to use their expertise where it is most beneficial.

Key duties

The Helicopter aircrew member:

- to assist the pilot(s) in the operation of the helicopter
- or
- to operate the winch on the helicopter
- or
- to supervise rappelling or sling-load operations
- or
- to supervise or assist a medical, paramedical or rescue crew member in the performance of his or her duties on the helicopter
- or
- to use the auto-hover system to position/reposition the helicopter via inputs through an auto-hover trim control (crew hover).

Reporting Arrangements

Reports to

As determined by the aircraft operator.

Direct reports

As determined by the aircraft operator.

Role Considerations

The recognised qualifications of a Helicopter aircrew members is a:

- Certificate IV in Aviation (Air Crew Officer) (551-580 hours)

or

- Certificate III in Aviation (Rescue Crew Officer) (421-443)

The aircraft operator may authorise an agency person, who does not hold a full aircrew qualification, to perform a specific function as an aircrew member.

An aircrew member that performs a specific function must hold a statement of attainment in:

- Perform down the wire duties (50 hours)
- Dispatch rappel personnel and equipment from a helicopter (40 hours)
- Conduct hoisting operations (10 hours)

EMPS Credentials

The following EMPS credentials are relevant to this role:

- None

Fitness or Other Standards

The following fitness or other standards are applied by AFAC member agencies to persons undertaking this role:

- Authorisation to perform these roles is subject to approval by the aircraft operator.
- The following roles have currency requirements:
 - Practices within the past 3 months: Air crew officer, rescue crew officer, down the wire crew, winch operator.
 - Practiced within the past 20 days: Rappel supervisor(dispatcher)
- Rappel supervisors (dispatcher) have a maximum endorsement period of 1 year.

Please note, this role type has been developed in tandem with the Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020), therefore references will focus on fire response. However, in the interests of pursuing an 'all hazards' approach to incident management, it is necessary to highlight that the above is not an exhaustive list, and personnel may undertake these duties in responding to events entirely separate from fire response. To this end, key duties and training may vary depending on unique incidents that these resources are deployed in response to.

Additionally, it is necessary to note that there may arise a need for personnel with experience in a variety of aircraft and qualifications or awareness that are not listed within the NPC. Examples include remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) and associated skills and experience such as Remote Pilots Licences (RePL), extended visual line of sight (EVLOS), and night visual line of sight (NVLOS).

In so doing, this outcome aims to reflect the descriptive nature of National Position Catalogue templates, serving as a framework from which agencies can springboard into specific events and responses.

References

- *Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020)*