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**AIC**  
Series C

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## **Landings or take-offs from places other than licensed or Government aerodromes**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) is to define the procedures applicable when landing or departing aircraft from places other than licensed or Government aerodromes.

1.2 The Belize Department of Civil Aviation (BDCA) is aware of the widespread unauthorized use of public roads for the landing of aircraft, in particular by agricultural aircraft in Belize. It has come to the attention of the BDCA that there are several agricultural operators conducting crop dusting operations by using public roads and other lands for landing and taking off of agricultural aircraft.

1.3 Any agricultural operator who conducts such operations without approval is in direct contravention of the Laws of Belize.

### **2. Compliance**

2.1 This AIC is mandatory and constitutes guidelines on how to comply with The Civil Aviation Act Chapter 239 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2000 Section 20.

### **3. Laws of Belize**

3.1 The Civil Aviation Act Chapter 239 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2000 Section 20 states that: **"No person shall, without the written permission of the Minister, cause or permit any aircraft to take off from or be landed in any place other than a licensed or Government aerodrome."**

3.2 In order for any pilot, person or representative of an operator to land or take off any aircraft from any place other than a licensed or Government aerodrome, they must have in their possession a written permission of the Minister. A copy of this permission must be in possession of all agricultural aircraft operators who carry out such landings and take-offs in places other than licensed or Government aerodromes.

3.3 Any pilot, person or representative of an operator who acts in contravention to this law will be subject to the sanctions detailed in Section 30 of The Civil Aviation Act.

#### **4. Fines for landing and taking off aircraft from places other than licensed or Government aerodrome.**

4.1 Anyone who acts in direct contravention of Section 20 will be subject to a general penalty which is set forth under Chapter 30 of the Civil Aviation Act which states: "**Every person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this Act or any regulations or Orders made there under for which no penalty is otherwise expressly provided, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both such a fine and term of imprisonment.**"

4.2 The Department will increase surveillance in all aerodromes where such activities are suspected in an effort to minimize the occurrences of landings and taking off in places other than licensed or Government aerodromes.

#### **5. Authorization of places other than licensed or Government aerodromes.**

5.1 The Department is aware of the various constraints placed on operators in terms of distance and cost effectiveness of using places other than licensed or Government aerodromes for the purpose of agricultural crop dusting. As a result the Department will be embarking on a project to assist operators interested in utilizing places other than licensed or Government aerodromes for landing and taking off purposes. This project will focus primarily on the immediate needs of agricultural operators who are currently carrying out extensive crop dusting operations and are in need of these approvals in order to be more cost effective and efficient. This does not imply that agricultural operators will be allowed to continue using places other than licensed or Government aerodromes to land during the implementation of this project.

5.2 All persons or operators who wish to have their areas of operations granted a permission under Chapter 239 of the Civil Aviation act must apply in writing to the Director of Civil Aviation before the 29th July, 2013. A list of places other than licensed or Government aerodromes will then be established and all these areas will be inspected for approval.

5.3 All applications received after this date will be considered as non priority and will be treated as such. Any landings or take offs done on these areas without a written permission from the Minister, will be considered illegal and the Department will take all necessary action to cease such operations.

#### **6. Exemptions**

**6.1 There will be no exemptions considered for this process.**

#### **7. Conclusion**

7.1 The Department expects full cooperation with the guidelines of this AIC by all operators including agricultural operators. Any candidate not adhering to examination procedures set out in this AIC will not be eligible for sitting any examination.

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