

BELIZE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION



BELIZE CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS AERIAL WORK OPERATIONS BCAR – 138

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**BELIZE CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS
AERIAL WORK OPERATIONS**

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Issue and Revision System

ISSUE AND REVISION SYSTEM

REVISION TO THIS REGULATION WILL BE INDICATED BY A VERTICAL BAR ON THE LEFT SIDE, IN FRONT OF THE LINE, SECTION, OR FIGURE THAT HAS BEEN AFFECTED. AN ISSUE WILL BE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COMPLETE DOCUMENT.

REVISIONS MUST BE RECORD, OF REVISIONS TABLE OF THIS DOCUMENT INDICATING THE RESPECTIVE NUMBER, DATE IT WAS ENTERED AND SIGNED BY THE PERSON ENTERNG THE REVISION.



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BELIZE CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS AERIAL WORK OPERATIONS

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Preamble

The Belize Civil Aviation Regulation (BCAR) 138 – Aerial Work prescribes the rules for operators performing aerial work operations in Belize. Aerial work encompasses a diverse array of activities crucial to aviation infrastructure and services, including but not limited to glider towing, banner towing, television and movie filming, sightseeing flights, news and media coverage, and traffic reporting. This BCAR 138 also incorporates the operating limitations relevant to the operation of ultralight vehicles and parachute operations in Belize. Upon the effective date of this BCAR 138, all operators conducting aerial work operations, ultralight vehicle operations or parachute operations will be required to obtain an operating certificate or letter of authorization as provided for under the regulation.

The editing practices used in this document are as follows:

- (1) 'Shall' and "Will" is used to indicate a mandatory requirement.
- (2) 'Should' is used to indicate a recommendation.
- (3) 'May' is used to indicate discretion by the BDCA, the industry or the applicant, as appropriate.

Unless otherwise stated, the definitions and abbreviations contained in the BCAR 05 are applicable to these regulations.



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SUBPART A GENERAL PROVISIONS

BCAR 138.005 Applicability

- (a) This BCAR contains the requirements:
 - (1) for those operators and operations that are aerial work.
 - (2) and operating limitations for operations using ultralight vehicles.
 - (3) and operating limitations for parachute operations.
- (b) All persons who conduct aerial work in Belize shall comply with the applicable airworthiness and operational requirements of this BCAR 138, unless otherwise specified where this BCAR grants relief from those requirements or specifies additional requirements.

BCAR 138.010 Exemptions

- (a) The BDCA may exceptionally and temporarily grant an exception to compliance with the provisions of BCAR 138 when satisfied that there exists a need, and subject to the fulfilment of any additional condition that the BDCA considers necessary in order to ensure an acceptable level of safety in each particular case. The granting of exemptions shall be awarded for a period of up to 180 days, granted by the Director of Civil Aviation only after an operational risk analysis is submitted by the operator, which will be analysed by the BDCA State Safety Programme Coordinator and the Chief Operations Officer prior to approval/acceptance.
- (b) The exemptions granted by the BDCA, shall be issued based on the nature of the request and in no event shall there be any exceptions or deviations issued with regard to the Type Certification, Supplementary Type Certificate or any aspect related to the airworthiness or operational procedures that may affect safety.
- (c) The exemptions granted by the BDCA in accordance with paragraph (a) shall be carried in hardcopy on board the aircraft at all times.

BCAR 138.015 Inspection Authority

- (a) The authority to inspect an operator, rotorcraft or operations is the BDCA.
- (b) The operator shall ensure that any inspector authorized and identified by the BDCA is allowed, at any time, to inspect any aircraft operated in accordance with an operating certificate or authorization issued by the BDCA under these Regulations.
- (c) The pilot in command may refuse to allow an inspector to inspect, if in his opinion, the overall safety of the operation could be jeopardized by doing so. In the event that the operator or pilot in command denies access to an inspector authorized by the BDCA, the operator or pilot in command shall submit a report to the BDCA within a period of 48 hours, justifying and indicating the details of the decision. The BDCA shall evaluate this report and, if necessary, may initiate an administrative investigation in order to determine the existence of a possible fault.



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SUBPART B CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

BCAR 138.020 Compliance with Operating Certificate or Letter of Authorization

- (a) An operator or any other person shall not engage in aerial work operations that require an operating certificate, without being in possession of a valid operating certificate issued by the BDCA.
- (b) An operator or any other person shall not engage in ultralight vehicle or parachute operations, without being in possession of a valid letter of authorization issued by the BDCA, where applicable.
- (c) Each holder of the operating certificate or letter of authorization shall, at all times, continue in compliance with the terms, conditions of issuance, and maintenance requirements in order to retain that certificate or letter of authorization.

BCAR 138.025 Application for Certificate or Letter of Authorization

(See Schedule I to BCAR 138.025)

(See Schedule II to BCAR 138.025)

- (a) A person wishing or intending to conduct aerial work, ultralight vehicle operations or parachute operations shall apply for an operating certificate or letter of authorization, respectively under this BCAR shall:
 - (1) Submit an application to the Director in the form set out in Schedule I to these Regulations at least 30 days before the intended date of the start of operations; and
 - (2) pay the prescribed fees.
- (b) In addition to paragraph (a) (1), the person applying for an operating certificate or authorisation under this BCAR shall submit to the BDCA the following information, manuals and documents for revision, approval or acceptance:
 - (1) Principal Base of Operations;
 - (2) Organogram/technical Organization;
 - (3) Standard Operating Procedures;
 - (4) Maintenance Manual;
 - (5) List of Aircraft;
 - (6) Training Program for Technical Personnel;
 - (7) Specifications of the kind of work to be performed and the requisite capabilities of the personnel who will be performing the work.
- (c) The person applying for an operating certificate or authorisation under this BCAR shall submit to the BDCA a chronogram of compliance with the inspection of base operations, installations, facilities, equipment, aircraft, stations, and the programming of any other equipment or technical matter that requires revisions, approval or inspection by the BDCA.



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BCAR 138.030 Validity of Operating Certificate or Letter of Authorization

- (a) Unless sooner surrendered, suspended, or revoked, an Aerial Work Operating Certificate or Letter of Authorization expires at the end of the twelfth month after the month in which it is issued or renewed.
- (b) The Director may suspend, revoke or otherwise terminate the operating certificate or authorization in a period less than prescribed in paragraph (a) at the discretion of the Director or if the operator suspends operations for more than 60 days or surrenders the certificate to the BDCA.

BCAR 138.035 Amendment of an Operating Certificate or Letter of Authorization

- (a) An operating certificate or letter of authorization may be amended:
 - (1) by the Director on his own initiative, pursuant to applicable regulations; or
 - (2) upon the application by a person who holds a certificate or letter of authorization.
- (b) An application to amend a certificate or letter of authorization referred to in paragraph (a)(2) shall be:
 - (1) submitted to the Director;
 - (2) made in the form and manner approved by the Director; and
 - (3) filed at least 30 days before the date the amendment is due to become effective, unless the Director specifies otherwise.
- (c) The Director may grant a request to amend an operating certificate or letter of authorization, where he is satisfied that safety in air commerce and the public interest is secured.
- (d) Where an application to amend an operating certificate or letter of authorization is refused, the applicant may within 30 days thereafter petition the Director to reconsider his decision.

BCAR 138.040 Certification Requirements

- (a) Operating Certificate requirements are specified in each subpart of these BCAR 138 corresponding to the type of aerial work operation intended to be conducted.
- (b) Requirements for the issuance of a letter of authorization are specified in Subpart I and Subpart J of this regulation.
- (c) The requisite persons or operator or personnel shall comply with the requirements referenced in paragraphs (a) and (b).

BCAR 138.045 Certificate to be Carried



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- (a) The person holding a certificate or letter of authorization shall keep such document at the base from which he conducts operation and shall make it available for inspection at the request of the Director or his designated representative.
- (b) A person shall not conduct any operations under this BCAR 138 unless he has a copy of the certificate or letter of authorization on board such aircraft or readily available at the site at which operations are to be conducted.
- (c) An aircraft registration and certificate of airworthiness issued by the Director under other Regulations made under the Act, may not be carried on board an aircraft that is involved in aerial work operations where such registration or certificate of airworthiness are available for inspection at the base from which operations are conducted.



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SUBPART C GLIDER TOWING

BCAR 138.050 Applicability

- (a) This subpart applies to those operations involving glider towing by aircraft.

BCAR 138.055 Operating Certificate required

- (a) A person shall not act as a tow pilot for a glider or conduct glider towing operation without an operating certificate issued by the BDCA as prescribed in Subpart B of these Regulations.
- (b) To qualify for an operating certificate under paragraph (a) the person shall have at least a Private Pilot Licence with a category rating for towing aircraft.

BCAR 138.060 Aircraft Requirements

- (a) A person shall not operate an aircraft that is towing a glider:
- (1) unless the aircraft is equipped with a tow hook and release control system that meet the applicable standards of airworthiness; and
 - (2) the towline used has a breaking strength of not less than 80 percent of the maximum certificated operating weight of the glider.

BCAR 138.065 Experience and Training Requirements

- (a) A person shall not act as a tow pilot for a glider unless he has:
- (1) logged at least 100 hours of pilot in command time in the same aircraft category, class, and type if applicable, as the tow aircraft;
 - (2) received training and instructor endorsement in:
 - (i) techniques and procedures essential to the safe towing of gliders, including airspeed limitations;
 - (ii) emergency procedures;
 - (iii) signals used; and
 - (iv) maximum angles of bank;
 - (3) except as provided in paragraph (b), completed and endorsed at least 3 flights as the sole manipulator of the controls of an aircraft towing a glider or simulating glider towing flight procedures while accompanied by a pilot who meets the requirements of this regulation; and
 - (4) within the preceding 12 months has:



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- (i) made at least 3 actual glider tows; or
 - (ii) made at least 3 flights as pilot in command of a glider towed by an aircraft.
- (b) A person who before the coming into operation of this regulation made and logged 10 or more flights as pilot in command of an aircraft towing a glider in accordance with an authorisation of the Director need not comply with paragraph (a)(3) or (4).

BCAR 138.070 Operating Rules

- (a) A pilot shall not conduct any towing operation in controlled airspace unless and until the pilot has received the appropriate clearance from the air traffic control service pursuant to Civil Aviation (Air Traffic Services) Regulations, 2025 (Statutory Instrument No. 88 of 2025).
- (b) A pilot shall not conduct any towing operation in uncontrolled airspace unless and until the pilot has notified the BDCA for such activity to be entered into the NOTAM service.
- (c) A pilot shall not engage in towing operations, either as the pilot of the towing aircraft or as the pilot of the towed glider, unless and until all pilots have agreed upon a general course of action, including take-off and release signals, airspeeds and emergency procedures for each pilot.
- (d) A pilot of a civil aircraft shall not intentionally release a towline, after release of a glider, in a manner that endangers the life or property of another.



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SUBPART D BANNER TOWING

BCAR 138.075 Applicability

- (a) This subpart applies to those operations involving towing banners or other signs by an aircraft.

BCAR 138.080 Operating Certificate required

- (a) A person shall not conduct a banner towing operation without an operating certificate issued by the BDCA as prescribed in Subpart B of these Regulations for the purpose of towing banners.
- (b) A helicopter operating under the provisions of BCAR 133 may tow a banner using an external load attaching means without a BCAR 138 operating certificate only if the operator has at least a class B authorization on the BCAR 133 Operating Certificate.

BCAR 138.085 Aircraft Requirements

- (a) A person shall not operate an aircraft that is towing a banner unless the aircraft is equipped with a tow hook and release control system that meet the applicable standards of airworthiness.
- (b) A person shall not operate a helicopter that is towing a banner unless the helicopter has a means to prevent the banner from becoming entangled in the helicopter's tail rotor during all phases of flight, including auto-rotations.

BCAR 138.090 Experience and Training Requirements

- (a) A pilot shall not conduct non-commercial banner tow operations unless that person has a valid private pilot license and a minimum of 200 hours pilot in command flight time.
- (b) A pilot shall not conduct banner towing operations for compensation or hire, without a commercial pilot license and at least a valid Class 2 medical certificate.
- (c) A pilot engaged in banner tow operations shall demonstrate his competence to the Director by performing at least one pickup and drop off, of the maximum number of letters or panels that can be used.
- (d) A demonstration referred to in paragraph (c) shall be observed from the ground to allow the inspector to evaluate the competence of any essential ground personnel as well as the flight operation.
- (e) A pilot shall not conduct banner towing operations in a rotorcraft unless such rotorcraft has a means to prevent the banner from becoming entangled in its tail rotor during all phases of flight, including auto-rotations.



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BCAR 138.095 Operating Rules

- (a) A banner tow operation shall be conducted:
 - (1) in visual flight rules weather conditions; and
 - (2) between the hours of official sunrise and official sunset.
- (b) A person shall not conduct banner towing operations:
 - (1) over congested areas or open-air assemblies of persons lower than 1 000 feet; or
 - (2) elsewhere lower than the minimum safe altitude requirements established in BCAR 02.
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a helicopter may be used in banner tow operations lower than the minimum prescribed altitude where such operations are conducted without jeopardizing the safety of persons or property on the ground.
- (d) A person holding a certificate or equivalent authorization under this subpart shall not conduct banner towing operations, unless prior approval is obtained from the aerodrome operator.
- (e) When conducting banner tow operation at an airport
 - (1) with a control tower, the operator shall notify the personnel at the control tower of the time of the banner tow operation;
 - (2) within close proximity to an uncontrolled airport, the operator shall notify the appropriate airport authority of the banner towing operations.
- (f) No person other than crew members directly involved in conducting banner tow operations shall be carried on board the aircraft involved in towing a banner.
- (g) When conducting banner tow operations above congested areas, the pilot of the aircraft shall at all times exercise due care to minimize the risk of damage to persons or property on the ground in the event that the emergency release of banner or tow rope becomes necessary.
- (h) Where a banner tow operation is completed the tow-rope shall be dropped in a pre-designated area at least 500 feet from persons, buildings, parked automobiles, and aircraft.
- (i) Where a tow plane lands with the towrope attached, the pilot of the aircraft shall at all times exercise due care to avoid trailing the tow-rope and endangering other aircraft, persons or property.
- (j) A pilot conducting banner tow operations shall have on board the aircraft a current copy of such operating certificate for the purpose of banner towing or equivalent authorization issued by the Director.



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SUBPART E TELEVISION AND MOVIE OPERATIONS

BCAR 138.100 Applicability

- (a) This Subpart applies to those operations involving movie filming, appearance in flight in movies, and airborne direction or production of such filming when those operations are conducted as part of a business enterprise or for compensation or hire.
- (b) For purposes of this Subpart, “movie” shall include film, videos, and live broadcast in any format, and the preparation and rehearsal for those operations.

BCAR 138.105 Operating Certificate required

- (a) A person shall not conduct television and movie operations as defined in BCAR 138.100 without an operating certificate issued by the BDCA as prescribed in Subpart B of these Regulations for the purpose of aerial television and movie as specified in BCAR 138.100(a).

BCAR 138.110 Aircraft Requirements

- (a) The pilot of an aircraft in the experimental category shall have an airworthiness certificate pursuant to the Civil Aviation (Airworthiness Directives) Regulations, 2025 (Statutory Instrument No. 85 of 2025) for the purpose of exhibition in order for an aircraft to be used in motion picture and television filming operations.

BCAR 138.115 Experience and Training Requirements

- (a) A pilot shall not conduct television and movie operations unless he has:
 - (1) a commercial pilot license with ratings appropriate to the category and class of aircraft to be used under the terms of the operating certificate.
 - (2) at least 500 hours as pilot in command.
 - (3) a minimum of 100 hours in the category and class of aircraft to be used.
 - (4) a minimum of five hours in the make and model aircraft to be used under the operating certificate.
- (b) The pilot shall have a Statement of Aerobatics Competency for the operations to be performed if the pilot intends to perform aerobatics 1,500 feet above ground level.



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BCAR 138.120 Operating Rules

- (a) Each operator shall conduct operations so as not to endanger persons or property on the surface nor aircraft in flight.
- (b) Each operator shall apply for and obtain a waiver of the requirements of these Regulations from the BDCA if filming sequences require an aircraft to be flown:
 - (1) in aerobatic flight below 1,500 AGL;
 - (2) over a congested area;
 - (3) in controlled airspace; or
 - (4) in other instances where a departure from the requirements in BCAR 02 is needed.
- (c) The holder of an operating certificate or the waiver shall provide a schedule of events that lists the:
 - (1) identification of the aircraft; and
 - (2) performers in the sequence of their appearance,before conducting a filming operation.
- (d) Any maneuvers added or time changes to the schedule of events shall be approved by the BDCA.
- (e) The waiver holder shall develop, have approved by the BDCA, and adhere to a Motion Picture and Television Flight Operations Manual in accordance with BCAR 138.125.
- (f) When conducting any filming operation requiring a waiver, the certificate holder shall ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to confine spectators to designated areas. If reasonable efforts have been taken to prevent access by unauthorized persons or vehicles to enter the airspace where maneuvers are being performed during the filming production event, reasonable efforts must be made to remove such unauthorized person or vehicle.

BCAR 138.125 Contents of a Motion Picture and Television Flight Operations Manual

- (a) Each Motion Picture and Television Flight Operations Manual shall contain at least the following:
 - (1) Company Organization or other entity:
 - (i) business name, address, and telephone number of applicant.
 - (ii) list of pilots to be employed or used during the filming operation, including their pilot license numbers, grade, and class and date of medical certificate.
 - (iii) list of aircraft by make and model to be used in the filming operation.
 - (2) Distribution and Revision: Procedures for revising the manual to ensure that all manuals are kept current.



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- (3) Persons Authorized: Procedures to ensure that no persons, except those persons consenting to be involved and necessary for the filming production, are allowed within 500 feet of the filming production area.
- (4) Area of Operations: The area that will be used during the term of the waiver.
- (5) Plan of Activities: Procedures for the submission, within three days of scheduled filming, a written plan of activities to the BDCA containing at least the following:
 - (i) Dates and times for all flights.
 - (ii) Name and telephone number of the person responsible for the filming production event.
 - (iii) The make and model of aircraft to be used and type of airworthiness certificate, including category.
 - (iv) Names of pilots involved in the filming production event.
 - (v) A statement that permission has been obtained from property owners or local officials to conduct the filming production operation.
 - (vi) Name and signature of waiver holder or his personal representative.
 - (vii) A general outline, or summary, of the production schedule, to include maps or diagrams of the specific filming location, if necessary.
- (6) Permission to Operate: Requirements and procedures that the waiver holder will use to obtain permission from property owners or public authorities (e.g., police, fire departments, etc.) as appropriate for the conduct of all filming operations when using the waiver.
- (7) Security: Method of security that will be used to exclude all persons not directly involved with the operation from the location.

Note: This mechanism should also include the provision that will be used to stop filming operations or activities when unauthorized persons, vehicles, or aircraft enter the operations area, or for any other reason, in the interest of safety filming.
- (8) Briefing of Pilot/Production Personnel: Procedures to be used to brief personnel of the risks involved, emergency procedures, and safeguards to be followed during the filming production operation.
- (9) Certification/Airworthiness: Procedures to ensure that required inspections will be conducted.
- (10) Communications: Procedures to provide communications capability with all participants during the actual operation and filming. Note: The applicant can use oral, visual, or radio communications as long as it keeps the participants continuously apprised of the current status of the operation.
- (11) Accident Notification: Procedures for notification and reporting of accidents.



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SUBPART F SIGHT SEEING FLIGHTS

BCAR 138.130 Applicability

- (a) This Subpart applies to those operations involving the carriage of persons for viewing of natural formations or manmade objects on the ground when those operations are conducted as part of a business enterprise or for compensation or hire;

Note: Any other passenger carrying flight for remuneration, hire or valuable consideration must be conducted under an Air Operator Certificate (AOC) in accordance with BCAR OPS 1.

BCAR 138.135 Operating Certificate required

- (a) A person shall not conduct sightseeing flights without the requisite operating certificate issued by the BDCA as prescribed in Subpart B of these Regulations.
- (b) The person shall comply with the requirements of regulations dealing with air operator certification, operating certificates and operations authorisations (BCAR 119) in respect of the certification, experience and training requirements (as per Statutory Instrument No. 126 of 2009) where the BDCA determines that the experience and training under BCAR 138.140 may be insufficient in the circumstances presented or that a compliance requirement is necessary in the interest of safety or to avoid an aviation hazard.

BCAR 138.140 Experience and Training Requirements

- (a) A pilot shall not conduct sightseeing operations unless he has:
 - (1) At least a commercial license with ratings appropriate to the category and class aircraft to be used under the terms of the operating certificate.
 - (2) At least 500 hours as PIC.
 - (3) A minimum of 100 hours in the category and class of aircraft to be used.

BCAR 138.145 Operating Rules

- (a) Each operator shall conduct operations so as not to endanger persons or property on the surface nor aircraft in flight.
- (b) All sightseeing operations shall be conducted only:
 - (1) In VFR weather conditions; and
 - (2) Between the hours of official sunrise and official sunset.
- (c) A person shall not conduct sightseeing operations:
 - (1) Over congested areas or open air assemblies of persons lower than 1,000 feet; or
 - (2) Elsewhere lower than the minimum safe altitude requirements of BCAR 02.



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- (d) BCAR 02 relating to Rules of the Air is applicable to all sight seeing operations described by this subpart.
- (e) The flight must be unquestionably advertised as “sight-seeing”;
- (f) The flight returns to the airport of departure without having landed at any other airport;
- (g) The flight is conducted within 25 statute mile radius of the departure airport; and
- (h) The certificated passenger capacity of the aircraft does not exceed 9 passengers.

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SUBPART G FISH SPOTTING

BCAR 138.150 Applicability

- (a) This Subpart applies to those operations involving location, tracking, and reporting on the location of fish, fish schools or manatees, when those operations are conducted as part of a business enterprise or for compensation or hire.

BCAR 138.155 Operating Certificate required

- (a) A person shall not conduct fish spotting operations without the requisite operating certificate issued by the BDCA as prescribed in Subpart B of these Regulations.

BCAR 138.160 Experience and Training Requirements

- (a) No pilot may conduct fish spotting operations unless he or she has:
 - (1) At least a commercial license with ratings appropriate to the category and class aircraft to be used under the terms of the operating certificate.
 - (2) At least 500 hours as PIC.
 - (3) A minimum of 100 hours in the category and class of aircraft to be used.

BCAR 138.165 Operating Rules

- (a) The operator shall not conduct operations so as to endanger persons or property on the surface nor aircraft in flight.
- (b) The minimum cloud clearance requirements and minimum altitude requirements of BCAR 02 relating to Rules of the Air shall not apply to those persons to whom the BDCA has specifically approved different minimums [cloud clearance and altitude clearance] as a part of an operating certificate issued under this Subpart.



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SUBPART H NEWS MEDIA AND TRAFFIC REPORTING

BCAR 138.170 Applicability

- (a) This Subpart applies to those operations involving the observation of, and reporting on, news media events or vehicular traffic conditions on the highways and streets when conducted by airmen in an aircraft not designated as solely for public use.

BCAR 138.175 Operating Certificate required

- (a) A person shall not conduct operations under this subpart without the requisite operating certificate in respect of vehicular traffic reporting issued by the BDCA as prescribed in Subpart B of these Regulations.

BCAR 138.180 Experience and Training Requirements

- (a) A pilot shall not conduct operations under this subpart unless he has:
 - (1) At least a commercial pilot license with ratings appropriate to the category and class aircraft to be used under the terms of the operating certificate.
 - (2) At least 500 hours as PIC.
 - (3) A minimum of 100 hours in the category and class of aircraft to be used.

BCAR 138.185 Operating Rules

- (a) The operator shall not conduct operations so as to endanger persons or property on the surface or aircraft in flight.
- (b) The minimum cloud clearance requirements and minimum altitude requirements of BCAR 02 relating to Rules of the Air shall not apply to those persons to whom the BDCA has specifically approved different minimums [cloud clearance and altitude clearance] as a part of an operating certificate issued under this Subpart.



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SUBPART I ULTRA LIGHT VEHICLES: OPERATING LIMITATIONS

BCAR 138.190 Applicability

- (a) This Subpart applies to those operations involving the use of ultralight vehicles including paramotors, paragliders and hang gliders.
- (b) For the purposes of this subpart, an ultralight vehicle is a vehicle that:
 - (1) is used or intended to be used for manned operation in the air by a single occupant;
 - (2) is used or intended to be used for recreation or sport purposes only;
 - (3) does not have any Belize or foreign airworthiness certificate; and
 - (4) if unpowered, weighs less than 155 pounds; or
 - (5) if powered:
 - (i) weighs less than 254 pounds empty weight, excluding floats and safety devices which are intended for deployment in a potentially catastrophic situation;
 - (ii) has a fuel capacity not exceeding 5 U.S. gallons;
 - (iii) is not capable of more than 55 knots calibrated airspeed at full power in level flight; and
 - (iv) has a power-off stall speed which does not exceed 24 knots calibrated airspeed.
- (c) These Regulations are designed to ensure the safe operations of ultralight vehicles and to protect the occupant and the public.

BCAR 138.195 Letter of Authorization required

- (a) A person shall not conduct operations that require a deviation from the operating limitations established in BCAR 138.205 without a letter of authorization under Subpart B granted by the Director.
- (b) The Director may impose additional limitations to the operation of ultra-light vehicles in the interest of public safety.

BCAR 138.200 Certification Requirement – Exemptions

- (a) Notwithstanding any other enactment pertaining to certification of aircraft or their parts or equipment, ultralight vehicles and their component parts and equipment are not required to meet the airworthiness certification standards specified for aircraft or to have certificates of airworthiness under BCAR 21 relating to aeronautical products.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other enactment pertaining to airman certification, operators of ultralight vehicles are not required to meet any aeronautical knowledge, age, or experience requirements to operate those ultralight vehicles or to have airman or medical certificates under BCAR APL.



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- (c) Notwithstanding the Civil Aviation (Identification and Registration Marks) Regulations [Statutory Instrument 117 of 2023 and any other enactment pertaining to registration and marking of aircraft, ultralight vehicles are not required to be registered or to bear markings of any type under BCAR 45.

BCAR 138.205 Operating Terms, Conditions and Limitations

- (a) A person shall not operate any ultralight vehicle in a manner that creates a hazard to other persons or property.
- (b) A person shall not allow an object to be dropped from an ultralight vehicle if such action creates a hazard to other persons or property.
- (c) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle except between the hours of sunrise and sunset.
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), ultralight vehicles may be operated during the twilight periods 30 minutes before official sunrise and 30 minutes after official sunset if:
- (1) the ultralight vehicle is equipped with an operating anticollision light visible for at least 3 statute miles; and
 - (2) the operations are conducted in uncontrolled airspace.
- (e) A person operating an ultralight vehicle shall maintain vigilance so as to see and avoid aircraft and shall yield the right-of-way to all aircraft.
- (f) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle in a manner that creates a collision hazard with respect to any aircraft.
- (g) A person operating a powered ultralight vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to unpowered ultralight vehicles.
- (h) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open-air assembly of persons.
- (i) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle in prohibited or restricted areas unless that person has permission from the BDCA or the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.
- (j) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle in areas designated in a Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM)
- (k) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle in other than VFR conditions and may only operate by visual reference with the surface.
- (l) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle in aerobatics conditions.
- (m) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle for commercial purposes.



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- (n) A person shall not operate an ultralight vehicle within 10 nautical miles from an airport with an operational control tower unless two-way radio communication is established and prior approval is obtained from the BDCA to enter the controlled airspace.
- (o) The person operating ultralight vehicle or his agent shall submit an application specifying the details of the proposed operation to the BDCA not less than fifteen (15) days prior to a proposed flight.

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SUBPART J PARACHUTE OPERATIONS

BCAR 138.210 Applicability

- (a) Except as provided in sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) of this BCAR, this subpart prescribe rules governing parachute operations conducted in Belize and the parachute equipment to be used in a parachute operation.
- (b) This subpart does not apply to a parachute operation conducted:
 - (1) in response to an in-flight emergency; or
 - (2) to meet an emergency on the surface when it is conducted at the direction or with the approval of the BDCA.
- (c) BCAR 138.015, 138.220, 138.225 through 138.250 and 138.255 (a)(1) of this subpart do not apply to parachute operation conducted by a member of the military;
 - (1) over or within a restricted area when that area is under the control of the military operations; or
 - (2) during military operations in uncontrolled airspace.

BCAR 138.215 Letter of Authorization required

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow a parachute operation to be conducted from an aircraft, if that operation was not issued a letter of authorization under subpart B by the Director of Civil Aviation relating to parachute operation and if that parachute operation would create a hazard to air traffic or to a person or property on the surface.
- (b) The Director may impose additional limitations to the parachute operation in the interest of public safety.

BCAR 138.220 Use of Alcohol and Drugs

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow a person to conduct a parachute operation from that aircraft, if that person is or appears to be under the influence of alcohol, or any drug that affects that person's faculties in any way contrary to safety.

BCAR 138.225 Radio equipment and use requirements.

- (a) Except when otherwise authorized by air traffic control:
 - (1) No person may conduct a parachute operation, and no pilot in command of an aircraft may allow a parachute operation to be conducted from that aircraft, in or into controlled airspace unless, during that flight:



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- (i) the aircraft is equipped with a functioning two-way radio communication system appropriate to the air traffic control facilities being used; and
 - (ii) radio communications have been established between the aircraft and the air traffic control facility having jurisdiction over the affected airspace of the first intended exit altitude at least 5 minutes before the parachute operation begins. The pilot in command must establish radio communication to receive information regarding air traffic activity in the vicinity of the parachute operations.
- (2) The pilot in command of an aircraft used for any parachute operation in or into controlled airspace must, during each flight:
- (i) continuously monitor the appropriate frequency of the aircraft's radio communication system from the time radio communications are first established between the aircraft and air traffic control, until the pilot advises air traffic control that the parachute operation has ended for that flight.
 - (ii) advise air traffic control when the last parachutist or object leaves the aircraft.
- (b) Parachute operations must be aborted if, prior to receipt of a required air traffic control authorization, or during any parachute operation in or into controlled airspace, the required radio communications system is or becomes inoperative.

BCAR 138.230 Information required and notice of cancellation or postponement of a parachute operation.

- (a) Each person, agency or organization requesting an authorization for parachute operations under BCAR 138.245 and BCAR 138.255 of this subpart and each person submitting a notification under BCAR 138.255 (a) (3) of this subpart must provide the following information (on an individual or group basis):
- (1) the date and the time the parachute operation will begin.
 - (2) the radius of the drop zone around the target expressed in nautical miles.
 - (3) the location of the center of the drop zone in relation to:
 - (i) the Belize VOR facility in terms of the VOR radial on which it is located and its distance in nautical miles from the VOR facility when that facility is 30 nautical miles or less from the drop zone target, or
 - (ii) the nearest airport, town, or city, when the Belize VOR is more than 30 nautical miles from the drop zone target.
 - (iii) the coordinates in degrees of latitude and longitude.
 - (4) each altitude above mean sea level at which the aircraft will be operated when parachutists or objects exit the aircraft.
 - (5) the duration of the intended parachute operation.
 - (6) the name, address, and telephone number of the person, agency or organization that requests the authorization or gives notice of the parachute operation.
 - (7) the nationality and registration marks of the aircraft to be used.
 - (8) the registration number of the aircraft.
 - (9) the name of the air traffic control facility with jurisdiction of the airspace at the first intended exit altitude to be used for the parachute operation.



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- (b) Each person, agency or organization requesting an authorization for operations under BCAR 138.245 and BCAR 138.255 of this subpart and each person submitting a notification under BCAR 138.255 (a) (3) of this subpart must promptly notify the BDCA if the proposed or scheduled parachute operation is canceled or postponed.

BCAR 138.235 Flight visibility and clearance from cloud requirements.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and no pilot in command of an aircraft may allow a parachute operation to be conducted from that aircraft:
- (1) into or through a cloud, or
 - (2) when the flight visibility or the distance from any cloud is less than that prescribed in table 1 below:

Altitude	Flight visibility (statute miles)	Distance from clouds
1,200 feet or less above the surface regardless of the MSL altitude	3	500 feet below, 1,000 feet above, 2,000 feet horizontal.
More than 1,200 feet above the surface but less than 10,000 feet MSL	3	500 feet below, 1,000 feet above, 2,000 feet horizontal.
More than 1,200 feet above the surface at or above 10,000 feet MSL	5	1,000 feet below, 1,000 feet above, 1 mile horizontal.

Table 1: Flight Visibility and Cloud Clearance

BCAR 138.240 Parachute operations at night.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and no pilot in command of an aircraft may allow a person to conduct a parachute operation from an aircraft at night.

BCAR 138.245 Parachute operations over or into a congested area or an open-air assembly of persons.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow a parachute operation to be conducted from that aircraft, over or into a congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or an open-air assembly of persons unless a letter of authorization for that parachute operation has been issued under this subpart.

Note: a parachutist may drift over a congested area or an open-air assembly of persons with fully deployed and properly functioning parachute if that parachutist is at a sufficient altitude to avoid creating a hazard to persons or property on the surface.



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- (b) An application for a letter of authorization issued under this subpart must be made in accordance with BCAR 138.025 and in addition contain the information required in BCAR 138.230 (a).
- (c) Each holder of, and each person named as a participant in a letter of authorization issued under this subpart shall be subject to the terms, conditions or limitations contained in the letter of authorization.

BCAR 138.250 Parachute operations over or onto an aerodrome.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow a parachute operation to be conducted from that aircraft, over or onto any airport unless:
 - (1) For aerodromes with an operating control tower:
 - (i) prior approval has been obtained from the aerodrome administrator to conduct parachute operations over or on that aerodrome.
 - (ii) approval has been obtained from the control tower to conduct parachute operations over or onto that aerodrome.
 - (iii) two-way radio communications are maintained between the pilot of the aircraft involved in the parachute operation and control tower of the aerodrome over or onto which the parachute operation is being conducted.
- (b) For aerodromes without an operating control tower, prior approval has been obtained from the aerodrome administrator to conduct parachute operations over or on that aerodrome.
- (c) A parachutist may drift over that airport with a fully deployed and properly functioning parachute if the parachutist is at least 2,000 feet above that airport's traffic pattern and avoids creating hazard to air traffic or to persons and property on the ground.

BCAR 138.255 Parachute operations in designated airspace.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow a parachute operation to be conducted from that aircraft:
 - (1) over or within a restricted area or prohibited area unless the controlling agency of the area concerned has authorized that parachute operation;
 - (2) within or into a Class A, B, C, D airspace area without, or in violation of the requirements of, a letter of authorization issued under this subpart;
 - (3) except as provided in paragraph (c) and (d) of this BCAR, within or into Class E or G airspace area unless the air traffic control facility having jurisdiction over the airspace at the first intended exit altitude is notified of the parachute operation no earlier than 24 hours before or no later than 1 hour before the parachute operation begins.
- (b) Each request for a parachute operation authorization or notification required under this subpart must be submitted to the air traffic control facility having jurisdiction over the airspace at the first intended exit altitude and must include that information prescribed by BCAR 138.230 (a) of this subpart.



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- (c) For the purposes of paragraphs (a)(3) of this article, the BDCA may accept a written notification from an organization that conducts parachute operations and lists the scheduled series of parachute operations to be conducted over a stated period of time not longer than 12 months. The notification must contain the information prescribed by BCAR 138.230 (a) of this subpart, identify the responsible persons associated with that parachute operation. The BDCA may revoke the acceptance of the notification for any failure of the organization conducting the parachute operations to comply with its requirements.
- (d) Paragraphs (a)(3) of this BCAR does not apply to a parachute operation by a member of an armed force within a restricted area that extends upwards from the surface when that area is under the control of an armed force.

BCAR 138.260 Use of single-harness, dual-parachute systems.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation using a single-harness, dual-parachute system, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow any person to conduct a parachute operation from that aircraft using a single-harness, dual-parachute system, unless that system has at least one main parachute, one approved reserve parachute, and one approved single person harness and container that are packed as follows:
 - (1) The main parachute must have been packed within 120 days before the date of its use by a certified parachute rigger, the person making the next jump with that parachute, or a non- certified person under the direct supervision of a certificated parachute rigger.
 - (2) The reserve parachute must have been packed by a certificated parachute rigger:
 - (i) within 120 days before the date of its use, if its canopy, shroud, and harness are composed exclusively of nylon, rayon, or similar synthetic fiber material that is substantially resistant to damage from mold, mildew, and other fungi, and other rotting agents propagated in a moist environment; or
 - (ii) within 60 days before the date of its use, if it is composed of any amount of silk, pongee, or other natural fiber, or material not specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this subpart.
 - (3) If installed, the automatic activation device must be maintained in accordance with manufacturer instructions for that automatic activation device.

BCAR 138.265 Use of tandem parachute systems.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation using a tandem parachute system, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow any person to conduct a parachute operation from that aircraft using a tandem parachute system, unless:
 - (1) one of the parachutists using the tandem parachute system is the parachutist in command, and meets the following requirements:



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- (i) has a minimum of 3 years of experience in parachuting, and must provide documentation that the parachutist:
 - (a) has completed a minimum of 500 freefall parachute jumps using a ram-air parachute; and
 - (b) holds a master parachute license issued by an organization recognized by the BDCA;
 - (c) has successfully completed a tandem instructor course given by the manufacturer of the tandem parachute system used in the parachute operation or a course acceptable to the BDCA;
 - (d) has been certified by the appropriate parachute manufacturer or tandem course provider as being properly trained on the use of the specific tandem parachute system to be used.
- (2) the person acting as parachutist in command:
 - (i) has briefed the passenger parachutist before boarding the aircraft. the briefing must include the procedures to be used in case of an emergency with the aircraft or after exiting the aircraft, while preparing to exit and exiting the aircraft, freefall, operating the parachute after freefall, landing approach, and landing.
 - (ii) uses the harness position prescribed by the manufacturer of tandem parachute equipment.
- (b) A person shall not make a parachute jump with a tandem parachute system unless:
 - (1) The main parachute has been packed by a certificated parachute rigger, the parachutist in command making the next jump with that parachute, or a person under the direct supervision of certificated parachute rigger.
 - (2) The reserve parachute has been packed by a certificated parachute rigger in accordance with BCAR 138.260 (a) (2) of this subpart.
 - (3) The tandem parachute system contains an operational automatic activation device for the reverse parachute, approved by the manufacturer of that tandem parachute system. The device must:
 - (i) have been maintained in accordance with manufacturer instructions; and
 - (ii) be armed during each tandem parachute operation.
 - (4) The passenger parachutist is provided with a manual main parachute activation device and instructed on the use of that device, if required by the owner or operator.
 - (5) The main parachute is equipped with a single-point release system.
 - (6) The reserve parachute meets the Federal Aviation Administration Technical Standard Order C23 specifications or any other BDCA approved specifications of an international standards setting entity.

BCAR 138.270 Use of static lines.

- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this BCAR, A person shall not conduct a parachute operation using a static line attached to the aircraft and the main parachute unless an assist device, described



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and attached as follows, is used to aid the pilot chute in performing its function, or, if no pilot chute is used, to aid in the direct deployment of the main parachute canopy. The assist device must:

- (1) be long enough to allow the main parachute container to open before a load is placed on the device.
- (2) have a static load strength of:
 - (i) At least 28 pounds but not more than 160 pounds if it is used to aid the pilot chute in performing its function; or
 - (ii) At least 56 pounds but not more than 320 pounds if it is used to aid in the direct deployment of the main parachute canopy; and
- (3) be attached as follows:
 - (i) at one end, to the static line above the static-line pins or, if static-line pins are not used, above the static-line ties to the parachute cone.
 - (ii) at the other end, to the pilot chute apex, bridle cord, or bridle loop, or, if no pilot chute is used, to the main parachute canopy.
- (b) A person shall not attach an assist device required by paragraph (a) of this BCAR to any main parachute unless that person is a certificated parachute rigger or that person make the next parachute jump with that parachute.
- (c) An assist device is not required for parachute operations using direct-deployed, ram-air parachutes.

BCAR 138.275 Foreign parachutists and equipment.

- (a) A person shall not conduct a parachute operation, and a pilot in command of an aircraft shall not allow a parachute operation to be conducted from that aircraft with an unapproved foreign parachute system unless:
 - (1) The parachute system is worn by a foreign parachutist who is the owner of that system.
 - (2) The parachute system is of a single-harness dual parachute type.
 - (3) The parachute system meets the civil aviation authority's requirements of the foreign parachutist's country.
 - (4) All foreign non-approved parachutes deployed by a foreign parachutist during a parachute operation conducted under this subpart shall be packed as follows:
 - (i) The main parachute must be packed by the foreign parachutist making the next parachute jump with that parachute, a certificated parachute rigger, or any other person acceptable to the BDCA.
 - (ii) The reserve parachute must be packed in accordance with the foreign parachutist's civil aviation authority requirements, by a certificated parachute rigger, or any other person acceptable to the BDCA.