



Operational Safety Instruction

Operations at Heathrow with a Depleted Rescue and Fire Fighting Service

13th Oct 2020

ASEO_OSI_068

V 2.0

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OSIs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their Supervisor or Manager.

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Heathrow is a certificated airport and as such is required to maintain a Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (RFFS) appropriate to the size of aircraft using the airfield. Based on the size of aircraft operating at Heathrow, the highest scale of RFFS cover, Category 10, is required.
- 1.2** Red bars have been added at the side of the document to draw the reader's attention to where changes have been made.
- 1.3** ASEO_OSI_068 v1.0 is hereby cancelled

2. Definitions

Abbreviation	Description
AOP	Airport Operations Plan
AfDM	Airfield Duty Manager
ATC	Air Traffic Control
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
RFFS	Rescue and Fire Fighting Service

3. Heathrow Aerodrome Fire and Rescue Category

- 3.1** The aerodrome category for RFFS and the scale of services to be provided is laid down in the EASA rules and AMC 2 ADR.OPS.B.010 (a) (2), The aerodrome RFFS category for aircraft size is shown in the table below:



Aerodrome category for Rescue and Fire Fighting		
Aerodrome Category (1)	Aeroplane overall length (2)	Maximum fuselage width (3)
1	0 m up to but not including 9 m	2 m
2	9 m up to but not including 12 m	2 m
3	12 m up to but not including 18 m	3 m
4	18 m up to but not including 24 m	4 m
5	24 m up to but not including 28 m	4 m
6	28 m up to but not including 39 m	5 m
7	39 m up to but not including 49 m	5 m
8	49 m up to but not including 61 m	7 m
9	61 m up to but not including 76 m	7 m
10	76 m up to but not including 90 m	8 m

4. Reduced RFFS Cover

- 4.1 The RFFS may be required to reduce fire cover for various reasons, including being committed to an incident or accident from which it cannot disengage. This reduction will continue from the time the contents of the appliances have been discharged until they are replenished and the Station Manager can ensure that a response can be achieved.
- 4.2 When the RFFS cover is reduced, EASA requires Heathrow to reduce or suspend operations until adequate cover is available.
- 4.3 The reduction of the cover could lead to operations being restricted to a lower category or, in extreme circumstances, runway closure for non-emergency traffic. If RFFS cover is reduced to a point that the runway closes, all aircraft operations are to be suspended including starting, taxiing, take-off and landing, and refuelling of aircraft. (See 6.1 below for exceptions).
- 4.4 Confirmation of the RFFS category during periods of reduced category can be obtained from the Airport Fire & Rescue Service, Station Manager on 020 8745 7778.



- 4.5 All aircraft movements at Heathrow can be influenced by reduced RFFS cover, however because of the scale of equipment held at Heathrow when there has been a major aircraft incident requiring the discharge of all extinguishing media from the Airport Fire Service appliances, subsequent return to normal operations is expected when secondary RFFS equipment is replenished, operational and not committed to any ongoing incident.
- 4.6 In any event, it is unlikely that any significant reduction in RFFS cover will last for extended periods.

5. Procedures for Promulgation of Reduction in RFFS Category

- 5.1 The Airport Fire & Rescue Service Station Manager is responsible for notifying the Heathrow AfDM at the earliest opportunity of any degradation in available fire category.
- 5.2 The Heathrow AfDM is responsible for communicating to ATC any restriction or suspension of aircraft movements in line with the fire category available. The AfDM must also ensure that any degradation is promulgated via Airport Operations Control/Airside Safety Department using the normal channels of communication (AOP, Text Alerting etc.) Examples of the standard messages are as follows:-
 - 5.2.1 Reduced Fire Cover “Heathrow Airfield Fire and Rescue facilities reduced: The aerodrome can only accept aircraft up to and including category
 - 5.2.2 Total Suspension of Movements “With immediate effect and until further notice Heathrow Aerodrome is closed owing to non-availability of rescue-firefighting facilities”.
- 5.3 ATC will communicate any degradation in fire category to aircrew via Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS) broadcast and/or via radio.
- 5.4 The Heathrow AfDM will issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) when the reduction in fire category is likely to exceed one hour.



6. Emergencies

6.1 Notwithstanding any reduction in RFFS cover, Heathrow will remain open for emergency landings, or for landing when, in the pilot’s opinion, a diversion or holding may be a greater potential hazard.

7. Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding this Instruction should be made to the Airport Fire & Rescue Service Station Manager Tel: 020 8745 7778.

8. References

EASA AMC 2 ADR.OPS.B.010 (a) (2)

