

## **Task Profile - *Agricultural Operations with Spotter Aircraft***

<b>Task Profile Name:</b>
Agricultural operations (fixed wing and helicopters) – with spotter aircraft support
<b>Objectives of Task:</b>
1. To control locusts through the delivery of insecticides in areas that may not be familiar to the operator.
<b>Description of task:</b>
<p>Defined as the aerial delivery of insecticides to control locusts including aerial inspection and transit. The task will be conducted in a NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) contracted aircraft allocated for the task.</p> <p>Aerial spotter aircraft is available or allocated to augment agricultural operator's normal ground and/or air inspection and spotting capability and to assist in environmental assessment, aviation hazard assessment and locust target identification, noting that the operator may not be familiar with the area of operations.</p> <p>The aerial spotter aircraft will normally move to a subsequent treatment area prior to the commencement of agricultural operations at the preceding area in order to enhance the tempo of the locust treatment operation.</p> <p>The agricultural operation itself will be in accordance with the AAAA (Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia) guidance.</p>
<b>Civil Aviation &amp; Safety Authority (CASA) permit/approval:</b>
Aerial Work – approval for agricultural operations

**Task Elements (sequence):**

1. Planning including reconnaissance for hazards
2. Briefing
3. Load preparation (insecticide)
4. Start/Taxi/Take off
5. Transit to area of operation, but not below 500 feet above terrain.
6. Conduct continuous aviation hazard assessment.
7. Maintain agreed Search And Rescue communications.
8. Aerial delivery of insecticides on target
9. Return transit to operating base, but not below 500 feet above the terrain.
10. Land/Shut down
11. Debriefing and report.

**Task conditions or technical aspects**

Aerial spotting is conducted in conjunction with this task to provide up to date information and to augment aviation hazard information obtained from the operator's usual inspection processes.

Ground survey and ground inspection may also be associated with this task profile.

Aircraft pilots and operators must be appropriately licensed by Department of environment and Climate Change.

**Limitations:**

Trained personnel required for inspection.

Aerial spotters may not be trained in agricultural operations.

Only the pilot is carried on this task – no other people are to be in the aircraft.

**Height restrictions:**

As per CASA approval.

Descent below 500 feet is not conducted prior to confirmation of a low level of risk considering aircraft performance, environmental conditions and the assessment of the risk associated with any hazards to which the aircraft would be exposed while low flying.

No flight below 200 feet above terrain except when landing and taking off from low-risk basic Helicopter Landing Site (HLS), Aircraft Landing Ground (ALG) or aerodrome, conducting the spray operation or in an emergency situation.

<b>Crew composition:</b>
Pilot and ground crew No personnel other than pilot are permitted.
<b>Role of each crew member:</b>
In accordance with agricultural operator's operations manual, aerial spotter task profiles and NSW DPI policy and procedures when NSW DPI ground spotters are employed.
<b>Landing zone details:</b>
Suitable agricultural landing area or aerodrome No landing will occur other than at initial take off and final landing and intermediate refueling points at designated landing sites and at low risk HLS or ALG with HLS to meet minimum requirements of CASA Civil Aviation Advisory Publication (CAAP) 92-2 (1) for basic HLS or in an emergency situation.
<b>Communication requirements</b>
Communications with aerial spotter and other proximate aircraft and ground spotting teams. Communications by either the pilot of the spotter aircraft or if proven competent, by the observer. Spotter aircraft to be on the ground or not below 200 ft above terrain when providing report/handing over to agricultural operator. Sterile cockpit procedures are to be used when below 500 feet above terrain. Sterile cockpit - No extraneous conversations or non-pertinent radio calls within the aircraft cabin. Hazard avoidance calls by anyone are exempt from the sterile cockpit procedures.
<b>SAR requirements</b>
Flight following by the Aviation Coordinator using 30 min reporting schedules. Any change to the flight operations must be communicated to the Aviation Coordinator immediately.
<b>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b>
As per OH&S (AAAA) guidance. Helmets with built in communications and visor for applicable crew, nomex or equivalent flight suit, enclosed leather footwear, non-flammable underclothing and socks.

**TRAINING**

Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) – Where flight over a large body of water or extended flying in flood conditions is required, all crew are to be HUET qualified

Requirements of operator as per Expression of Interest and Contract.

**Restrictions / non-approved practice:**

Location of aerial spotter aircraft to be confirmed prior to arrival in treatment area.