

## CAA HMS Dispensation Statement (September 2020)

*Full text released by the CAA on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and reproduced by Nevis Technology with permission*

Following a request at the 30 June 2020 ASTG meeting the implementation date of 01 April 2021 was reviewed at the Helideck Steering Committee (CAA/helicopter operators/HCA senior management) meeting held on 10 July 2020. In view of the tight timescales for the approval of HMS, delays in the production of repeater lights and the impact of Covid 19, it was agreed that some flexibility be applied but on a case-by-case basis rather than a 'blanket' extension. Granting of extensions would be contingent on satisfactory evidence of best efforts having been employed and an acceptable implementation plan being in place.

Factors likely to weigh in favour of dispensations being granted include:

- HMS software on the vessel upgraded to Rev.9 or later even if not yet approved, provided that an appropriate plan for approval is in place.<sup>1</sup>
- If HMS repeater lights are not installed in time, orders are in place and, where the required information is available, mounting provisions and wiring have been installed.<sup>2</sup>
- Implementation plan in place that does not extend beyond 01 October 2021. This would allow Duty Holders the summer 2021 maintenance period to undertake outstanding installation work.

<sup>1</sup> Existing HMS have not been subject to any independent approval process so some flexibility on this aspect is considered tolerable.

<sup>2</sup> Some loss of functionality will be incurred by the lack of repeater lights but transmission of the deck status to the flight crew via radio is tolerable in the short-term; HMS are not currently equipped with repeater lights.