



AC NO: 91.79-1

DATE: 4/21/76

ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: WAIVERS OF SECTION 91.79 OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS (FAR).

1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular announces the availability of waivers relating to Section 91.79, Minimum Altitudes, for operations safeguarding human life and that contribute to the public welfare.
2. BACKGROUND. Minimum safe altitude requirements were adopted many years ago and, except for minor amendments to provide relief to recognize the unique capabilities of helicopters, they have remained virtually unchanged. These rules are specifically written to safeguard life and property on the surface, with the highest priority placed upon the protection of human life. However, the agency has recognized that certain operations relative to public welfare and interest may justify relaxation of the 500-foot separation distance from persons and property.

Therefore, updated guidelines have been furnished District Offices outlining the conditions under which such waivers may be issued, evaluation procedures, and specifications that must be met by the waiver applicant prior to issuance.

3. HOW TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON WAIVERS OF SECTION 91.79 OF THE FAR. Interested persons may contact any General Aviation District Office/Flight Standards District Office for specific information regarding waiver issuance under these updated guidelines.

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