Flying Model Aircraft

Activity scope
Flying model aircraft refers to the processes and procedures of preparing model aircraft for flight, and the storing and handling of model aircraft, parts and accessories on school property.

Special considerations
For the purposes of these policies and procedures, and pursuant to the operation of Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (1998) (Cth) Part 101.235 (1) Note 1, "model aircraft are flown only for the sport of flying them".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk levels, model aircraft (excluding rotary-wing)</th>
<th>Less than 0.5 kg</th>
<th>Between 0.5 kg and 2.0 kg</th>
<th>Between 2.0 kg and 5.0 kg</th>
<th>Between 5.0 kg and 7.0 kg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 15 km/h</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>Medium risk</td>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>Extreme risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 15 km/h and 50 km/h</td>
<td>Medium risk</td>
<td>Medium risk</td>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>Extreme risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 50 km/h and 100 km/h</td>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>Extreme risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 100 km/h and 150 km/h</td>
<td>Extreme risk</td>
<td>Extreme risk</td>
<td>Extreme risk</td>
<td>Extreme risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors

*Low and Medium risk levels*
- A registered teacher or an adult leader with Competence (demonstrated ability) in the flying of model aircraft of the type and performance being supervised.

*High risk level*
- A registered teacher or an adult leader who holds a current Bronze Wing qualification from the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia or equivalent.

*Extreme risk level*
- A registered teacher or an adult leader who holds a current Gold Wing qualification from the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia or equivalent.

The leader of an activity may also be the designated Safety Officer, responsible for the adherence to safety requirements by all participants and spectators. If the leader is not the designated Safety Officer, the person so designated must have the minimum qualifications specified for a leader for the risk level of the activity.

Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities
- Safety goggles.
- Anti-glare protection.

Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures
- Allocate areas for designated aircraft pits and pilots' areas, designated flying areas, and restrict these areas to spectators.
- Do not fly model aircraft at a height exceeding 122 metres/400 feet above ground level (AGL).
- Ensure the minimum distance between spectators and the flight line of model aircraft flown outdoors is no less than 30 metres at all times, see Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASR) (1998) Volume 3 Part 101.395(2) also Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Advisory Circular AC 101-3(0a) [pp. 18-19].
• Consider the location of propellers and model aircraft construction materials, as the design and construction of model aircraft affects the potential for personal and property damage.

• Schools with a flying area within 3 nautical miles/5.55 kilometres of an aerodrome shall not operate model aircraft without first obtaining permits in accordance with the provisions of CASR (1998) Part 101.075.

• Do not operate free-flight and controlled aircraft simultaneously, as multiple aircraft in the air increases the risk factor.

• Provide students operating model aircraft with adequate instruction in the correct operation of all equipment and procedures associated with the operation of the model aircraft, including the handling of fuels, the use of batteries and charging devices, and relevant flight-line procedures.

• Ensure the use and charging of all types of batteries is in accordance with manufacturer instructions.

• Ensure all personnel within the flight line are equipped with appropriate protective equipment at all times.

• For indoor flying, the minimum distance of spectators from the flight line at all times depends on the risk level, for:
  o low risk – no less than 3 metres
  o medium risk – no less than 10 metres
  o high risk – no less than 30 metres
  o extreme risk – no less than 30 metres.

Useful activity-specific links

• Australian Sport Aviation Confederation
  http://www.asac.asn.au/

• Civil Aviation Safety Authority Advisor Circular AC 101-3(0)

• Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 (CASR) Part 101

• International Air Sports Federation
  http://www.fai.org/

• Model Aeronautical Association of Australia
  http://www.maaa.asn.au/

• Model Aeronautical Association of Australia – Award of Wings

• Model Aeronautical Association of Queensland
  www.maaq.org

• Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation – Model Aeronautical Association of Queensland

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