



HELISKI PERFORMANCE REVIEW CHECKLIST*

CRITERIA

This Helicopter Skiing Performance Review Checklist is based on the guidelines established under the Helicopter Skiing Safety & Operations Guidelines (HOSG). Where any conflict may exist between the Checklist and the HOSG, the guidelines in the HOSG shall prevail. Prospective Outfitter Members must self-declare compliance with essential and required components of the checklist prior to a compliance review which must be completed not later than the second season of membership. Outfitter Members must meet all essential and required components as self-declared by the Outfitter and substantiated by a Performance Review by HeliSki US. Scheduling of subsequent Performance Reviews of Outfitter Members is determined by criteria set forth in Section XIII the HOSG. Conformance to HOSG performance criteria shall be rated according to the following scale:

A – Complete: The Heli-Ski Operation’s program meets all requirements for the indicated item.

B – Substantially Complete: The Heli-Ski Operation’s program is functional and meets most of the requirements for the indicated item.

C – Incomplete: The Heli-Ski Operation’s program is not functional for the indicated item or fails to meet most of the requirements for that item.

*Format based on Helicat Canada peer review process and Guidelines for Helicopter and Cat Skiing Operations. HeliSki US is an associate member of Helicat Canada.

DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION	RESULT A; B; C
OPERATIONS –GENERAL		
Safety & Operations Program established and documented,	ESSENTIAL	
Operations Map: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displayed at Operations Base, guide meeting room and with Emergency Manual where operations are conducted from remote locations. • Marked with permit area boundaries (Operating Area), exclusion and wildlife avoidance areas, primary flight paths, air and ground evacuation routes special aviation hazards & no fly zones. • Marked with ski runs or areas of operation, landing & pick-up zones, communication sites, weather stations, and fuel caches. 	REQUIRED	
Run Catalogue with list of GPS coordinates for LZ’s & PZ’s and elevations for at least one key landing zone in each drainage in the permitted terrain.	GOOD PRACTICE	
Photographs of ski runs used on a regular basis with narrative description of run, degree of difficulty and particular hazards.	GOOD PRACTICE	
Operating parameters adopted and documented: VFR flight rules, minimum ceilings & visibility, cessation of operations at least one hour before sunset.	REQUIRED	
Coordination of operations with adjacent operators (if any) including communications plan, flight paths, safety procedures & position reporting.	GOOD PRACTICE	
Clear lines of authority on cessation of operations due to weather, visibility, inability to mitigate avalanche and other risks, condition of aircraft, conduct or condition of Clients.	GOOD PRACTICE	
PILOT QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING		
Lead Pilot & Pilot qualifications established per Section IV of HOSG.	REQUIRED	
Training:		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of pilot training on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazards specific to heli skiing: flat light, avalanche paths & cornices, rock falls, other back country users. ○ Seracs & crevasses for Operating Areas that include glaciers. ○ Local weather patterns. • Documentation of Pilot-Guide co-training including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operating Area/terrain familiarization, ○ Specific Aviation Hazards within the Operating Area (wires, aerals, no-fly zones, etc). ○ Operations Protocols, radio communications, hand signals, client briefing procedures and operations at LZ's & PZ's. 	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>REQUIRED</p>	
AIRCRAFT		
<p>Meets minimum equipment standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night VFR Instrumentation, ELT, avoidance & strobe lights, communication equipment to allow direct communication with Operations Base and Guides. • Ski basket and skis/bear paws or other FAA approved devices to support helicopter's weight on snow. • Covers, heaters and tie-downs or hanger. • Baffles if recommended by Mfr., used at pilot's discretion. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>REQUIRED</p>	
<p>Emergency Equipment on-board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, MRE, sleeping bag, headlamp, emergency candles, two lighters, space blanket, tarp or bivy sack, collapsible ski poles, snow shoes, signalling device. • Pilot on board: avalanche transceiver, winter clothing & foot gear, hand-held two-way radio. 	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>GOOD PRACTICE</p>	
<p>Helicopter Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide and ground crew training in Operations Base safety (signage, protocols, management): • Adequate demarcation of helicopter landing area. • Base, fuel truck, fuel cache refuelling procedures. • Landing and pickup zone management. • Call in procedures. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
GROUND OPERATIONS		
<p>Documentation of Ground Crew training re:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helicopter awareness, control of clients in and around helicopter, loading and unloading procedures, client briefings. • Refuelling procedures, grounding, protective equipment, spill avoidance and spill mitigation procedures. 	<p>REQUIRED</p>	
<p>Stationary and mobile refuelling systems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containers for fuel residue, spreadable absorbent, shovel & bags or other containers, absorbent wipes, fire extinguisher. • 2ndary containment as applicable. • Written Spill Response Plan on hand and explained to ground crew. 	<p>GOOD PRACTICE</p>	
<p>Flight Following program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of training of Ground Crew. • Implemented, flight following logs properly completed. 	<p>REQUIRED</p>	
<p>Load Manifests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared daily based on weights taken on site. • Updated with changes though the day. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	

Emergency Manual and Communications Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy on-hand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Day Staging Area ○ Operations Base • Documentation of training. 	ESSENTIAL	
SNOW STABILITY AND HAZARD EVALUATION		
Working Snow Safety and Weather Forecasting Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily application of Weather Data and/or Snow Data, as applicable, • Daily weather and snow stability forecast. • Snow stability rating system based on American Avalanche Association's Snow Stability Scale or Canadian Avalanche Danger Scale. 	ESSENTIAL	
Snow Safety Director meeting experience and training requirements established in HSOG Section VIII(B)	ESSENTIAL	
Guides familiarized with Snow Safety and Weather Forecasting Program during scheduled annual staff training.	REQUIRED	
Twice daily guide meetings that consider and document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow Data and Weather Data; • Snow stability and weather forecast for Operating Area, 	ESSENTIAL	
Documentation of daily weather and snowfall observations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Operations Base and/or from remote stations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Locations relevant to the conditions in the Operating Area. ○ Outside agencies, adjacent ski areas, mechanized skiing operators and ski touring operators (as applicable). • Data observations in standard format per Observational Guidelines of American Avalanche Association. 	REQUIRED	
Tiered run, drainage and/or area of planned operations rating system to indicate runs/drainages/areas available for use, closed for use and/or requiring additional analysis. The ratings should consider avalanche/cornice hazards, glacier/crevasse /bergschrund & serac hazards (where applicable), cliffs, creeks & ski quality hazards and evacuation difficulty.	REQUIRED	
OPERATING PROCEDURES		
AM Guide meeting/ pre-operations briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather and Snow stability forecasts presented. • Proposed operational plan for day includes operating schedule, run list or area(s) of operation. • Using Operations Map, Run Catalogue and photos if available, review of primary ski runs, LZ's & PZ's, landmarks, hazards, permit boundaries, no-fly and exclusion zones, wildlife avoidance areas, emergency caches and shelters, if any. 	ESSENTIAL	
Client Safety: Avalanche Response Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate number of avalanche beacons for all clients, guides and ground personnel working in the field • Minimum of one client pack per group (contents: probe, shovel, radio) • Adequate instruction of clients in wear and care & use of transceivers, • Adequate instruction on basic companion rescue including organizing the group into a response, assembly of the probe and shovel, use of the transceiver and search pattern to search for visual clues and a signal; use of the probe to pinpoint, use of the shovel to excavate a buried victim. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Familiarize clients with client pack contents from laminated rescue card • All transceivers function tested before boarding helicopter for first time each day. 	ESSENTIAL	

<p>Client Safety: Helicopter Orientation: From a check list or laminated card...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaching the heli with skis/snowboard • Waiting for heli at a PZ • Entering the heli & use of seat belts • Exiting the heli • Waiting for the helicopter to depart • Client control at LZ and PZ. • Emergency Procedures. 	ESSENTIAL	
<p>Client Safety: Skiing/Riding Protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Client comfort and injury prevention. • Explanation of safe zones, spacing and buddy system or team approach. • Location of Client Pack in group. • Hazards review: cornices, tree wells, streams, cliffs and, for Operating Areas that include glaciers, ice falls, crevasses and bergschrunds, • For Operating Areas that include skiing/riding on glaciers, it is recommended that each Guide and client wear a climbing harness at all times and that the harnesses be checked for proper buckling prior to boarding the helicopter for the first time each day. 	REQUIRED	
<p>Landing Zones and Pick-up Zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable of supporting fully loaded helicopter in place. • Clear of hazards (avalanche paths, ice falls, crevasses, etc). • Adequate clearance for main and tail rotors. • Adequate room to unload clients and gear with clearance for unobstructed departure of aircraft. • If LZ/PZ is to be re-used, creation of landing platform and marked/flagged per pilot preference. • Additional flagging and/or clearance procedures for low/flat light conditions. • Pilot-Guide communication on wind, approach and departure route & clearance issues if any. • Guide (only) signals for departure. 	REQUIRED	
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING		
<p>Emergency Manual adopted and implemented that includes specific plans addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Officer designated • Chain of Command for emergencies established • Emergency Communications Procedures • Field Evacuation Plan • Missing or Overdue Aircraft • Aircraft Accident • Aircraft Mechanical Failure • Missing Skier • Trauma/Medical Emergency • Avalanche Rescue • High Angle Rescue • Environmental Emergency 	ESSENTIAL	
<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the Emergency Manual must be readily available at the Operations Base, Guide Meeting Room and Day Staging Area. • All Guides and Ground Operations Personnel receive annual training on implementation of the Emergency Manual plans. • The Emergency Manual should include a complete inventory and location 	ESSENTIAL	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of all rescue equipment. Rescue and emergency equipment should be in plainly marked containers/packs that include a laminated inventory card and present in helicopter, at Day Staging Area or remote cache. 		
<p>Emergency Communications Procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must include a complete list of all rescue resources enumerated at Section X(C) of the HSOG together with contact information including radio frequencies, phone numbers, cell phone numbers, satellite phone numbers and home phone numbers as applicable. All phone numbers and contact personnel checked and updated annually. Radio and/or phone communications must be enabled between guides, helicopter, Operations Base and outside world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two way radios for each guide, one additional two-way radio in a Client pack. Radio Repeater required for most Operating Areas. Should include list of significant GPS Coordinates, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations Base and regularly used Day Staging Areas. Caches of fuel and emergency equipment. At least one location in each drainage regularly used. Preferably a location with wide-open access for reduced visibility access. Satellite Phones – recommend one/helicopter. All guides and pilots trained in use. Emergency phone list posted independent of Emergency Manual at Operations Base, Day Staging Area, office (if separate), in all company vehicles and with each satellite phone. Two-way communications such that the Outfitter is a resource to local agencies encouraged. Documentation of twice annual training drill on Emergency Communications Procedures. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
<p>Field Evacuation Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without using Operator’s aircraft, must have two alternate plans for evacuating field, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One evacuation plan without use of any aircraft. Annual verification of resource availability. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
<p>Trauma/Medical Emergency Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of current medical certifications for all Guides (OEC/WFR/EMT/WEMT/Paramedic or medical professional) Trauma Pack and Oxygen Pack in helicopter, at Day Staging Area or close proximity to operations. Trauma Pack suggested contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pocket mask 1- Oropharyngeal airway set C-collar 1 -Scissor 2- Emergency foil blankets 2- Stretch bandages 5 yards 2-4” Stretch bandages 5 yards 2- Ace bandages 2 -Rolls 1” adhesive tape 3 -Rolls elastic tape 3 -SAM splints 4 -EZ release surgical pads 6 -Combine dressings 6 -Triangular bandages 6 -4”x4” Gauze pads 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>REQUIRED</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 -4"x4" Sterile sponges ○ 6 -Large trauma bandages ○ 1 -Extra large steri-strip ○ 6 -Steri-strips ○ 6- Large butterfly bandages ○ 6- 3" Gauze rolls ○ 1- Eye patch ○ 1- Xerofoam dressing ○ 1 -Suctions device and tubing ○ 5 -Pair latex gloves ○ 1 -Roll duct tape ○ Space blanket ○ Traction (long bone) splint ○ Laminated Inventory Card ● Automated External Defibrillator (AED) recommended to be in helicopter ● Oxygen Pack recommended to be in helicopter. Contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compressed O2 and regulator ○ O2 Masks ○ Nasal cannula ○ Oropharyngeal airway set (in Trauma Pack or O2 Pack) ○ Laminated Inventory Card ● Lightweight rescue toboggan for non-life threatening injuries (SKED, Rescue Bubble) in helicopter, Day Staging Area or close proximity to operations. ● Backboard and evacuation litter together with straps and other devices to secure a victim at Day Staging Area or close proximity to operations. ● Documentation of annual medical evacuation drill using both helicopter and snowmobile. 	<p>GOOD PRACTICE ESSENTIAL</p> <p>REQUIRED</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>GOOD PRACTICE</p>	
<p>Avalanche Emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rescue Plan primarily relies upon resources on-site and in the field to respond to Avalanche Emergency. ● Site resource use notwithstanding, Outfitter maintains an Avalanche Rescue Pack at its Day Staging Area which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Probes ○ Shovels ○ Wands taped together (tomato stakes) ○ Flagging tape ○ Laminated inventory card. ● The Avalanche Rescue Plan should specify that the Trauma Pack, O2 Pack and AED are always dispatched with the Avalanche Rescue Pack. ● Each client, guide and all personnel working in the field must wear an avalanche transceiver at all times. ● Each guide equipped with a two-way radio, probe and shovel and at least one client in each group equipped with the same items and trained in use. ● Outfitter conducts several Avalanche Emergency rescue drills each season and includes both single burial and multiple burial scenarios. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>REQUIRED</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>ESSENTIAL</p>	
<p>High Angle Rescue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Operator has High Angle Rescue Plan suitable to the terrain in its Operating Area. ● High Angle Rescue Pack, Suggested Contents (will vary according to terrain in Operating Area): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climbing Harnesses (3) ○ Dynamic Rope (2) 40 meters or longer ○ Static Rope (1)100 meters or longer ○ Locking Carabineers (8) ○ Pulleys (2) ○ Tubular Webbing (2) 5 meters each 	<p>REQUIRED</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cordellete (2) 8mm x 8 meters ○ Prussic (4) simple loop and (2) leg loop for ascending ○ Ascenders (2) ○ Figure 8's or other belaying devices (2) ○ Anchors (2) (pickets, etc.) ○ Cam Straps (4) 4-8 meters ○ Laminated Inventory Card ● High Angle Rescue Pack and additional contents <u>mandatory</u> where Operating Area includes glaciers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ice Screws (6), 3 long & 3 short; ○ Crampons (2) pair, tool-less adjusting; ○ Ice Axes (2) ● Suggested Alternative for operations that do not require guides to carry high angle rescue equipment in their packs: Lightweight Glacier/Cliff/Creek rescue rope kit to be kept in helicopter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-50m half rope - 4- 7mm x 5m Cordelletes - 1-6.5m webbing - 2- Harnesses (large) - 4- non -locking carabineers - 4- locking carabineers ● Training Drills: Once annually for operations with precipitous terrain features and twice annually for operations with glaciers in Operating Area. 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p>GOOD PRACTICE</p> <p>REQUIRED</p>	
<p>Environmental Emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resource and contact verification annually. ● Training of ground personnel for implementation of SPCC plan annually. ● Inventory of spill mitigation materials and tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fixed location fuel systems – weekly ○ Mobile fuel systems – daily 	<p>GOOD PRACTICE</p>	
GUIDES AND GUIDE EQUIPMENT		
<p>Guide Pack Contents includes:</p> <p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group list each day for all persons in the field-updated after regrouping ● Notebook/pencil ● Radio ● Altimeter ● Companion rescue: Transceiver, Shovel, Probe ● Wood saw (Operators in areas with limited trees substitute emergency candle) ● Lighter and Fire starter ● Lightweight metal cup or aluminium foil to facilitate melting snow for drinking. ● Down jacket (recommend sized XL) ● First aid kit; splint ● Bivy sack ● Headlamp ● Leatherman or equivalent; light repair kit: screwdriver, tape, baskets, wire ● Snow Observation kit: crystal screen, magnifier, thermometer, ruler, snow saw ● Flagging tape ● Water <p>Optional (depending on terrain):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Skins ● Extra gloves (may be carried in guest pack) ● Extra goggles (may be carried in guest pack) ● Extra hat (may be carried in guest pack) ● Light weight heli rope rescue kit (as applicable) 	<p>ESSENTIAL</p>	

<p>Availability of Operations Base back-up rescue equipment listed according to the Emergency Manual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescue Toboggan(s), backboard, blankets, belay rope • Supplemental Oxygen Unit • Supplementary First Aid Supplies • Second Trauma Kit (optional) • Avalanche Rescue Pack <p>Optional: Overnight response kit (warm packs) packed in waterproof drop bag:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping bags, tents, stoves, food, tarps, blankets, pots • High Angle Rescue Pack 	<p>REQUIRED</p>	
<p>Availability of additional rescue equipment such as glacier rescue packs, toboggan, overnight “warm” packs, and other specialized rescue gear as listed in the guidelines and stored in various places such as remote cache or fuel truck. Packs are itemized, labelled and listed in the rescue plan.</p>	<p>GOOD PRACTICE</p>	
<p>GUIDE QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES</p>	<p>Essential</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Guides should meet HSUS Guide Experience & Qualification Guidelines; [See HSUS Guide Qualification & Experience Guidelines from HSUS Website.] 		