

# NOTICE

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.621

National Policy

Effective Date:  
4/20/22

Cancellation Date:  
4/20/23

**SUBJ:** OpSpec A050, Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO)

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**1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice announces changes to the requirements for issuing operations specification (OpSpec) A050 and revises the templates for affected Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 135 operations, including part 135 operations conducted under a combined 14 CFR part 121/135 certificate.

**2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is responsible Flight Standards offices' principal inspectors (PI), and aviation safety inspectors (ASI) who hold certificate oversight responsibility for part 135 certificate holders (CH) conducting helicopter operations with authorized use of or requesting authorization for the use of night vision goggles (NVG). The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and Foundational Business offices.

**3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices), the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <https://fsims.avs.faa.gov>, and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at <https://drs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public can find this notice on the FAA's website at [https://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/orders\\_notices](https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices), FSIMS at <https://fsims.faa.gov>, and the DRS.

**4. Background.** The current version of OpSpec A050 contains references to 14 CFR part 61, § 61.57 regarding operating experience. Section 61.57(e)(3) states: "This section does not apply to a pilot in command who is employed by a part 119 certificate holder authorized to conduct operations under part 135 when the pilot is engaged in a flight operation under parts 91 or 135 for that certificate holder if the pilot in command is in compliance with §§ 135.243 and 135.247 of this chapter." This reference is being removed and specific operating requirements are being added to OpSpec A050. Additionally, this revision removes Table 1, Weather Minimums When Operating in Class G Airspace, and replaces the table with a reference to part 135, § 135.609. The description of Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO) local flying areas is also removed because this is now contained in OpSpec A021, Air Ambulance Operations—Helicopter.

**5. Guidance.** FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 3, OpSpec A050—Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO), is being amended to add additional guidance regarding the issuance of OpSpec A050. This notice also contains the following:

- The sample OpSpec A050 template in Appendix A applies to part 135.
- The sample OpSpec A050 template in Appendix B applies to part 121/135.

**6. Action.** This is a mandatory template revision with a compliance date of 60 days from the date of this notice. Principal Operations Inspectors (POI) with oversight of part 135 CHs issued OpSpec A050 should communicate the requirement for the reissuance of this OpSpec with those CHs to preclude any delays in the reissuance. This includes CHs conducting part 135 operations under a combined part 121/135 certificate with OpSpec A050 issued.

**7. Disposition.** We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the Air Transportation Division, Flight Operations Group (AFS-220), Part 135 Flight Operations Section, at 202-267-8166.



Robert C. Carty  
Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service

**Appendix A. Sample OpSpec A050, Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO): 14 CFR Part 135**

a. The certificate holder is authorized to conduct HNVGO in accordance with 14 CFR Part 135 and the limitations and provisions of this operations specification.

**Note:** Night vision goggle (NVG) operation means the portion of a flight that occurs during the time period from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise where the pilot maintains visual surface reference using NVGs in a helicopter that is approved for such an operation.

b. The certificate holder may not use any person, nor may any person serve as a crewmember in passenger-carrying HNVGO under the provision of Part 135, unless that person has satisfactorily completed the appropriate initial or recurrent phase, as applicable, of the certificate holder's approved training program for HNVGO since the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar-month before that service. The grace provisions of Part 135, § 135.301 apply to these required checks.

c. The certificate holder may not use any person, nor may any person serve as a pilot in command (PIC) of a helicopter during passenger-carrying HNVGO, unless that person has met the operating experience and proficiency requirements outlined below:

(1) A person may act as PIC in an NVG operation with passengers on board only if, within 2 calendar-months preceding the month of the flight, that person performs and logs the following tasks as the sole manipulator of the controls on a flight during an NVG operation:

(a) Three takeoffs and three landings, with each takeoff and landing including a climbout, cruise, descent, and approach phase of flight (only required if the pilot will be authorized to use NVGs during the takeoff and landing phases of the flight).

(b) Three hovering tasks (only required if the pilot will be authorized to use NVGs during the hovering phase of flight).

(c) Three area departure and area arrival tasks.

(d) Three tasks of transitioning from aided night flight (aided night flight means that the pilot uses NVGs to maintain visual surface reference) to unaided night flight (unaided night flight means that the pilot does not use NVGs) and back to aided night flight.

(e) Six NVG operations.

(2) A person may act as PIC using NVGs in an NVG operation without passengers only if, within the 4 calendar-months preceding the month of the flight, that person performs and logs the tasks listed in subparagraphs c(1)(a)–(e) of this operations specification as the sole manipulator of the controls during an NVG operation.

(3) In addition, the pilot must have accomplished one helicopter NVG Visual Inspection and Operational Check within the preceding 60 calendar-days.

(4) All HNVGO maneuvers must be conducted in accordance with procedures stated in the certificate holder's FAA-approved HNVGO training program.

d. Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA) Operations. If the certificate holder is authorized to conduct HAA operations through issuance of Operations Specification A021, Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA) Operations, the certificate holder may use no lower than the visual flight rules (VFR) weather minimums specified in § 135.609 when conducting HAA operations using HNVGO in Class G Airspace.

e. Additional Checking Requirements. The authorized Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) must not be used to conduct HNVGO under the provisions of part 135 unless all the necessary equipment that is installed or modified as part of the entire NVIS is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Operations Specification D093, Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO) Maintenance Program, and the following:

(1) Prior to conducting HNVGO, each crewmember will complete any required checks on the NVIS to be used in accordance with Table 1:

**Table 1 – Required Checks for Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) Users**

Required Check	Document	Reference within Document

(2) Any NVIS equipment that does not pass a required check is prohibited from use in HNVGO.

**Appendix B. Sample OpSpec A050, Helicopter Night Vision Goggle  
Operations (HNVGO): 14 CFR Part 121/135**

a. The certificate holder is authorized to conduct HNVGO in accordance with 14 CFR Part 135 and the limitations and provisions of this operations specification.

**Note:** Night vision goggle (NVG) operation means the portion of a flight that occurs during the time period from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise where the pilot maintains visual surface reference using NVGs in a helicopter that is approved for such an operation.

b. The certificate holder may not use any person, nor may any person serve as a crewmember in passenger-carrying HNVGO under the provision of Part 135, unless that person has satisfactorily completed the appropriate initial or recurrent phase, as applicable, of the certificate holder's approved training program for HNVGO since the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar-month before that service. The grace provisions of Part 135, § 135.301 apply to these required checks.

c. The certificate holder may not use any person, nor may any person serve as a pilot in command (PIC) of a helicopter during passenger-carrying HNVGO, unless that person has met the operating experience and proficiency requirements outlined below:

(1) A person may act as PIC in an NVG operation with passengers on board only if, within 2 calendar months preceding the month of the flight, that person performs and logs the following tasks as the sole manipulator of the controls on a flight during an NVG operation:

(a) Three takeoffs and three landings, with each takeoff and landing including a climbout, cruise, descent, and approach phase of flight (only required if the pilot will be authorized to use NVGs during the takeoff and landing phases of the flight).

(b) Three hovering tasks (only required if the pilot will be authorized to use NVGs during the hovering phase of flight).

(c) Three area departure and area arrival tasks.

(d) Three tasks of transitioning from aided night flight (aided night flight means that the pilot uses NVGs to maintain visual surface reference) to unaided night flight (unaided night flight means that the pilot does not use NVGs) and back to aided night flight.

(e) Six NVG operations.

(2) A person may act as PIC using NVGs in an NVG operation without passengers only if, within the 4 calendar-months preceding the month of the flight, that person performs and logs the tasks listed in subparagraphs c(1)(a)–(e) of this operations specification as the sole manipulator of the controls during an NVG operation.

(3) In addition, the pilot must have accomplished one helicopter NVG Visual Inspection and Operational Check within the preceding 60 calendar-days.

(4) All HNVGO maneuvers must be conducted in accordance with procedures stated in the certificate holder's FAA-approved HNVGO training program.

d. Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA) Operations. If the certificate holder is authorized to conduct HAA operations through issuance of Operations Specification A021, Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA) Operations, the certificate holder may use no lower than the visual flight rules (VFR) weather minimums specified in § 135.609 when conducting HAA operations using HNVGO in Class G Airspace.

e. Additional Checking Requirements. The authorized Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) must not be used to conduct HNVGO under the provisions of part 135 unless all the necessary equipment that is installed or modified as part of the entire NVIS is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Operations Specification D093, Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO) Maintenance Program, and the following:

(1) Prior to conducting HNVGO, each crewmember will complete any required checks on the NVIS to be used in accordance with Table 1:

**Table 1 – Required Checks for Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) Users**

Required Check	Document	Reference within Document

(2) Any NVIS equipment that does not pass a required check is prohibited from use in HNVGO.