

PASSENGER SAFETY

In recent years the number of helicopters in South Africa has escalated, along with the number of people obtaining their Private Pilot's Licence to fly them. Sadly, this has led to unscrupulous, under-qualified pilots offering illegal helicopter services to the South African public.

In order to ensure that you, your family and loved ones are in the safest hands possible, please take the time to read through and familiarize yourself with the safety information in this brochure before climbing into a helicopter.

If you are paying to fly in a helicopter, the following points will help you to recognise a professional operator.

- South African Aviation law commands that anyone offering a commercial helicopter service (you pay for your ride) must be the holder of an Air Services Licence, issued by the Department of Transport, and an Air Operators Certificate issued by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). Legal helicopter operators undergo annual and ad-hoc inspections by the SACAA, as well as having to comply with strict international safety and maintenance requirements. When the operator has passed their annual CAA inspection it means that the aircraft will be adequately maintained, as well as be insured for passenger liability should there be an accident. If the pilot and handling crew dismiss you, or are unable to answer any questions regarding their operator's licence and requirements, do not fly.
- If you are paying for your flight, the pilot in command of the aircraft has to, by law, be a Commercial helicopter pilot. The pilot must carry his licence with him at all times, and you may request to see it. If he only has a Private Pilot's Licence do not fly, he is flying illegally.
- The pilot or passenger handling crew must give all passengers a safety briefing before the flight. This is especially important when climbing into and out of a helicopter as turning blades are exceptionally dangerous. Safety standards require that thorough passenger briefings are given before a flight. If you don't receive a briefing, or if the staff appears inexperienced or untrained, do not fly.
- A ticket must be issued to each passenger before they fly. This ticket should, amongst other requirements, list the operator's licence numbers as mentioned in point # 1.

If you have any queries regarding the above information,
please feel free to contact our
Air Safety Officer on 082 928 8090.