# **Proposed amendments for CASA to administer recreational balloon activities - (CD 2409OS)**

# Overview

We’d like your feedback on proposed changes to Civil Aviation Order (CAO) 95.54 and the CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual (CRBPM).

These changes are to ensure CASA’s continued administration of recreational ballooning activities. There will be no change for existing permit holders other than access to additional endorsements.

The amendments have been drafted in preparation for the Part 131 Manual of Standards coming into force on 12 November 2024.

**Civil Aviation Order (CAO) 95.54**

We’re proposing changes to CAO 95.54 (Part 131 Recreational Activity and Specialised Balloon Operations) to enable CASA's continued administration and oversight of Part 131 recreational activities, initial pilot training and the granting of recreational pilot authorisations, ratings and endorsements.

The current CAO 95.54 will self-repeal on 11 November 2024. On 12 November 2024, a replacement version of CAO 95.54 is required to provide a legislative mechanism that will empower CASA to continue to administer recreational and specialised ballooning activities, including the issue of private pilot balloon permits.

In the future, we intend to incorporate all Part 131 aircraft pilot licensing requirements into the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations. In the meantime, the private pilot authorisations issued by CASA will be set out in this proposed new CAO 95.54 which will be valid until 11 November 2027.

**CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual**

We’re also proposing to amend the CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual to align with the proposed CAO 95.54, including:

* deleting any references to old regulations or orders that are no longer in force
* adding training syllabus and application procedures for endorsements.

### The proposed new rule set/standards

The new CAO 95.54 is proposed to commence on 12 November 2024. It includes necessary provisions and exemptions, similar to the current CAO, while introducing the following endorsements:

* an endorsement to operate a gas balloon, based on recognition of foreign national aviation authority qualifications
* an endorsement to operate a hot air airship, based on recognition of foreign national aviation authority qualifications
* a night visual flight rules (VFR) flight balloon endorsement
* an endorsement to operate a hot air balloon that has an envelope capacity greater than 120,000 ft3 but not more than 260,000 ft3 in a recreational activity
* an endorsement to operate a hot air balloon that has an envelope capacity greater than 260,000 ft3 in a recreational activity
* an endorsement to carry and release a hang glider.

The new CAO 95.54 will be consistent with the applicable operational rules of Parts 91 and 131 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations, and the Part 131 Manual of Standards.

# Why your views matter

Your feedback will help us make sure the proposed requirements are suitable, the final legislation is clear and it will work as intended.

Please submit your comments using the survey link on this page.

If you are unable to provide feedback via the survey link, please email [regulatoryconsultation@casa.gov.au](mailto:regulatoryconsultation@casa.gov.au?subject=Consultation%20on%20Flight%20Training%20and%20Flight%20Tests%20for%20Grant%20of%20Certain%20Endorsements%20(Sling%2C%20Winching%20and%20Rappelling%2C%20Firefighting)%20Approval%20(CD%202304FS).) for advice.

## **Documents for review**

All documents related to this consultation are attached in the ‘Related’ section at the bottom of the overview page. They are:

* Summary of Proposed Change (SPC) on CD 2409OS
* Consultation Draft - Civil Aviation Order 95.54 (Part 131 Recreational Activity and Specialised Balloon Operations) Instrument 2024
* Draft CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual version 1.2

# **What happens next**

At the end of the response period, we will:

* review all comments received
* make responses publicly available on the consultation hub (unless you request your submission remain confidential)
* publish a Summary of Consultation which summarises the feedback received and outlines any intended changes and next steps.

All comments received on the proposed legislation will be considered. Relevant feedback that improves upon the proposed instrument will be incorporated into the final instrument.

# Give Us Your Views [Appears on the overview page at the bottom]

Online Survey [This link is on the front page of the survey and takes you to the survey questions]

**Events**

List of events related to this consultation such as upcoming webinars

**Related**[This section is at the bottom of the front page and contains all the links to other sites and documents related to this consultation]

**Related Links**

List of links attached to the consultation

**Related Consultations**

List of links to related consultations

**Related Documents**

* Summary of Proposed Change on CD 2409OS (PDF document)
* Consultation Draft - Civil Aviation Order 95.54 (Part 131 Recreational Activity and Specialised Balloon Operations) Instrument 2024 (PDF document)
* Draft CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual version 1.2 (PDF document)
* MS Word copy of online consultation – Proposed amendments for CASA to administer recreational balloon activities - CD 2409OS (Office Word 2007 XML document)

# Audience & Interest groups

**Audience – Please select at least one**

| **Tick relevant boxes** | **Audience** |
| --- | --- |
|  | Hot air balloon operators |
|  | Approved self-administering aviation organisations |
|  | Parachuting sport aviation bodies |
|  | Balloon Instructors and flight examiners |
|  | Balloon manufacturers |
|  | Balloon Pilots |
|  | Balloon Sports aviation operators |
|  | Balloon AOC holders and applicants |
|  | Balloon pilots holding a CP(B)L |
|  | VET and tertiary sector organisations providing aviation theory training |

**Interest – please select at least one**

| **Tick relevant boxes** | **Interest group** |
| --- | --- |
|  | Sport and recreational ballooning |

# Page 1. About this consultation

This consultation asks for your feedback on the proposed amendments for CASA to continue to administer recreational balloon activities – Consultation Draft (CD) 2409OS.

The current Civil Aviation Order (CAO) 95.54 (Part 131 Recreational Activity and Specialised Balloon Operations) Instrument 2021 self-repeals on 11 November 2024. A new version of CAO 95.54 is required to be in force on 12 November 2024.

The proposed new version of CAO 95.54 will provide a legislative mechanism that will empower CASA to continue to administer recreational and specialised ballooning activities including the issue of private pilot balloon permits. There will be no change for existing permit holders other than access to additional endorsements.

The proposed CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual (CRBPM) v 1.2 has been amended to reflect all relevant changes incorporated in the new CAO 95.54. This includes deleting any references to old regulations or orders that are no longer in force, and adding the syllabus of training and the application procedures for the endorsements included in the proposed CAO 95.54.

We will ask you for:

* **personal information**, such as your name, any organisation you represent, and your email address
* **your consent** to publish your submission
* **your responses** to the proposed changes in the regulations
* **demographic information** to help us understand your interest in the regulations
* **any comments** you may want to provide

Our [website](https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public) contains more information on making a submission and what we do with your feedback.

# Page 2. Personal information [Standard page]

## First name

*(Required)*

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## Last name

*(Required)*

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## Email address

*If you enter your email address, you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.*

Email

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## Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

## *(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

Yes, I am authorised to submit feedback on behalf of an organisation

No, these are my personal views.

If yes, please specify the name of your organisation.

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Which of the following best describes the group you represent?

*Please select only one item*

Balloon owner/operator

Recreational balloon pilot

Commercial balloon pilot

AOC holder

Other

Please specify ‘Other’ if selected.

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# Page 3. Consent to publish submission [Standard page]

To provide transparency and promote debate, we intend to publish all responses to this consultation. This may include both detailed responses/submissions in full and aggregated data drawn from the responses received.

Where you consent to publication, we will include:

* **your last name** if the submission is made by you as an individual or
* **the name of the organisation** on whose behalf the submission has been made
* **your responses** and comments

We **will not** include any other personal or demographic information in a published response

Do you give permission for your response to be published?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

Yes - I give permission for my response/submission to be published.

No - I would like my response/submission to remain confidential but understand that de-identified aggregate data may be published.

I am a CASA officer.

Information about how we consult and how to make a confidential submission is available on our [website](https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public).

Page 4: Feedback on proposed changes to Civil Aviation Order (CAO) 95.54

We’re proposing changes to CAO 95.54 (Part 131 Recreational Activity and Specialised Balloon Operations) to enable CASA's continued administration and oversight of Part 131 recreational activities, initial pilot training and the granting of recreational pilot authorisations, ratings and endorsements.

The current CAO 95.54 will self-repeal on 11 November 2024. On 12 November 2024, a replacement version of CAO 95.54 is required to provide a legislative mechanism that will empower CASA to continue to administer recreational and specialised ballooning activities, including the issue of private pilot balloon permits.

The new CAO 95.54 will be consistent with the applicable operational rules of Parts 91 and 131 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations, and the Part 131 Manual of Standards.

Fact bank – Link to Consultation Draft - Civil Aviation Order 95.54 (Part 131 Recreational Activity and Specialised Balloon Operations) Instrument 2024

**Question 1:** Do you agree that the regulatory arrangements under CAO 95.54 in the form of ballooning permits, endorsements, exemptions, conditions and directions is suitable for the continued operation of recreational ballooning?

*Radio buttons*

Agree

Agree with changes (please specify suggested changes below)

Disagree (please detail your reasoning and alternative suggestions below)

Undecided / Not my area of expertise

Comment

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Page 5: Feedback on the CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual (CRBPM)

We are proposing to amend the CASA Recreational Ballooning Procedures Manual to align with the proposed CAO 95.54, including:

* deleting any references to old regulations or orders that are no longer in force
* adding training syllabus and application procedures for endorsements.

**Question:** In the CRBPM, do you agree with recognition of overseas qualifications for gas balloon endorsement and hot air airship endorsement?

*Radio buttons*

Agree

Agree with changes (please specify suggested changes below)

Disagree (please detail your reasoning and alternative suggestions below)

Undecided / Not my area of expertise

Comment

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**Question:** In the CRBPM, do you agree with the syllabus and applications requirements for obtaining a night visual flight rules (VFR) balloon endorsement?

Fact bank: CRBPM References for night visual flight rules (VFR) balloon endorsement

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| The following paragraphs have been added/amended for the endorsement 2.1.3, 2.3.3.5, 2.5.1.2, 2.10, 5.4, 7.5.3. |

*Radio buttons*

Agree

Agree with changes (please specify suggested changes below)

Disagree (please detail your reasoning and alternative suggestions below)

Undecided / Not my area of expertise

Comment

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**Question:** In the CRBPM, do you agree with the syllabus and applications requirements for obtaining an endorsement to carry and release a hang glider?

Fact bank: CRBPM References for carry and release a hang glider endorsement

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| The following paragraphs have been added/amended for the endorsement 2.1.3, 2.5.1.2, 2.13, 5.8, 7.5.6. |

*Radio buttons*

Agree

Agree with changes (please specify suggested changes below)

Disagree (please detail your reasoning and alternative suggestions below)

Undecided / Not my area of expertise

Comment

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**Question:** In the CRBPM, do you agree with the syllabus and applications requirements for obtaining an endorsement to operate a balloon that has an envelope capacity greater than 120,000 cubic feet?

Fact bank: CRBPM References for endorsements to operate a balloon that has an envelope capacity greater than 120,000 cubic feet.

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| The following paragraphs have been added/amended for the endorsements 2.1.3, 2.3.3.5, 2.5.1.2, 2.11, 2.12, 7.5.7. |

*Radio buttons*

Agree

Agree with changes (please specify suggested changes below)

Disagree (please detail your reasoning and alternative suggestions below)

Undecided / Not my area of expertise

Comment

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Page 6: General comments

Do you have any additional comments about the proposal? This should not include points you have already raised.

Comments

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