



GENERAL INFORMATION BULLETIN 2026-06

Issue 02

Date of Issue: 29 September 2026

SUBJECT:

TRANSITION FROM HELIPORT CERTIFICATION AND LANDING AREA ACCEPTANCES TO HELIPORT CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION (HCR)

APPLICABILITY:

This General Information Bulletin applies to

- Owners and/or operators of heliports used exclusively for domestic helicopter operations within the UAE
- Helicopter operators conducting operations to or from domestic heliports within the UAE

This bulletin does not apply to vertiports, heliports conducting international operations, or hybrid infrastructure, which remain subject to full certification under CAR-AGA Part VFI and PART ADR.

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

FEDERAL LAW No. 20 OF 1991 – CIVIL AVIATION LAW

CAR Part IV – FLIGHT OPERATIONS REGULATIONS – CAR AIR OPS

CAR Part IX – AERODROME REGULATIONS, CAR-AGA PART-ADR

CAR Part IX – AERODROME REGULATIONS, CAR-AGA PART-VFI (Issue 02)

INFORMATION BULLETIN 2006-14 – FEES AND CHARGES

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This issue supersedes Issue 01 dated 14 July 2026. Changes from Issue 01 include:

- Applicability extended to helicopter operators; responsibilities under CAR AIR OPS unchanged
- Locations not requiring an HCR under VFI.OR.E.010 identified
- Initial HCRs issued during the transition are not renewable; holders must apply for an HCR, including an online Declaration of Compliance, by 30 September 2026
- Online VFI Registration Record updates and Declaration of Compliance submission now available through GCAA E-Services



- Verified HCR with 'Operational' status required for planned domestic helicopter operations; operational status clarified as an operator declaration, including for non-operational heliports
- Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance to be retained by the HCR holder and provided to the GCAA on request
- Applicability of aviation security clearances clarified
- Regulatory Design Review applications no longer accepted for domestic heliports; superseded by the HCR and Declaration of Compliance
- HCR validity of 12 months and renewal no less than three months before expiry stated
- Fee date changed from 1 August to 1 October 2026; applications submitted by 30 September 2026 free of charge

BACKGROUND:

The transition to HCR supports the UAE Government Zero Bureaucracy Programme by simplifying the regulatory framework for domestic heliports, reducing administrative approvals, and increasing operator responsibility while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight.

CAR-AGA Part VFI (Issue 02) replaced CAR-VFI (Issue 1) and CAR-HVD with effect from 30 June 2026. The revised regulation establishes two distinct regulatory pathways for vertical flight infrastructures:

- **Heliport Certificate of Registration (HCR)** - applicable to heliports used exclusively for domestic helicopter operations within the UAE, whether commercial or non-commercial.
- **Heliport, Vertiport or Hybrid Heliport/Vertiport Certificate** - applicable to heliports conducting international operations; all vertiports (domestic or international, commercial or private); and hybrid facilities (helicopter and VTOL-Capable Aircraft (VCA)).

The provisions for HCR do not apply to operations at locations specified under CAR-AGA Part VFI, VFI.OR.E.010, namely emergency evacuation helipads, temporary-use sites, shipboard heliports, public interest sites and HEMS operating sites. Helicopter operations to these locations remain subject to CAR AIR OPS. However, temporary operating sites for fixed durations, and sites used for more than 10 days of operations within 12 consecutive months, require an HCR as described in VFI.OR.E.010(b)(1) and (2).

Heliport owners/operators must determine the applicable regulatory pathway based on the type of vertical flight infrastructure and its intended operations, in accordance with CAR-AGA Part VFI.



INFORMATION:

1. Automatic Transition to Certificate of Registration

Eligible domestic heliports were issued Initial Heliport Certificates of Registration based on the data within the VFI Registration Record. These were designated as "INITIAL ISSUE: TRANSITION TO HELIPORT REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE" and expire on 30 September 2026.

Initial HCRs are transition instruments and are not renewable. Holders must apply for an HCR in accordance with Section 3 by 30 September 2026.

Until 30 September 2026, heliports holding an Initial HCR with 'Operational' status may be used for planned domestic helicopter operations.

2. Withdrawal of Existing Approvals

Further to the automatic transition to the HCR framework, Heliport Certificates; Heliport Landing Area Acceptances; Post Holder and Accountable Manager acceptances; and associated accepted manuals were withdrawn by the GCAA.

These withdrawals were administrative in nature, resulting solely from the change in regulatory framework. They were not enforcement actions and did not reflect any finding of non-compliance against the operator.

Note that Heliport Landing Area Acceptances are no longer provided for under CAR-AGA Part VFI.

HCR holders remain responsible for ensuring adequate procedures and competent personnel are in place to support safe operations in accordance with CAR-AGA Part VFI.

3. HCR Status and Requirements

Each HCR will carry one of two statuses:

- **Verified** - the HCR holder has met the applicable GCAA requirements, including submission of the Declaration of Compliance. Where the heliport owner/operator has declared the operational status as 'Operational', the heliport may be used for planned domestic helicopter operations. See Section 4.
- **Unverified** - the HCR holder has not met the applicable GCAA requirements. The heliport shall not be used for planned domestic helicopter operations.

Maintaining the HCR: Heliport owners/operators maintain their HCR through their GCAA online organisation account including:



- Update of the particulars, including operational status, in the heliport profile VFI Registration Record through the ANA Records Dashboard;
- Application for, amendment and renewal of the HCR by completing an online Declaration of Compliance and linking any applicable aviation security clearance through the Heliport Certificate Registration service dashboard.

HCR holders must continue to maintain any required aviation security clearances and meet all other applicable requirements, including payment of applicable fees in accordance with Section 7. The HCR holder shall retain supporting documentation, including evidence of compliance against CAR-AGA Part VFI, and make it available to the GCAA on request. There are no provisions to upload supporting documentation within the HCR application.

4. Declared Operational Status of the Heliport

- Operational status is declared by the HCR holder and forms part of the heliport's registration record. It is not an approval, certificate or permission issued by the GCAA.
- The HCR holder is responsible for keeping the operational status current, in accordance with CAR-AGA Part VFI, VFI.OR.C1.015(c). The status must be updated before operations begin, and whenever the heliport is temporarily closed, under construction, or no longer in use.
- Owners of heliports that are closed, under construction or in the design phase must still register the heliport and apply for an HCR, including a Declaration of Compliance based on the particulars known at the time, declaring the current operational status.
- A heliport shall not be declared 'Operational' unless it holds any applicable aviation security clearances.
- Helicopter operators confirm the HCR and operational status as part of their flight preparation, for example with the HCR holder. No application or request to the GCAA is required.
- This check does not replace the responsibility of the helicopter operator and pilot-in-command, under CAR AIR OPS, to determine that the landing site is suitable for the intended operation.

5. Regulatory Design Reviews

The GCAA no longer accepts Regulatory Design Review applications for domestic heliports. Where a Regulatory Design Review was previously provided to planning authorities as evidence of GCAA review, this is superseded by the HCR and associated Declaration of Compliance.



6. Continuing Compliance

The HCR remains valid subject to the holder's continuing compliance with all applicable GCAA requirements under CAR-AGA Part VFI. This includes, but is not limited to, timely renewal of the HCR, payment of applicable fees, maintenance of any applicable aviation security clearances, and notification to the GCAA of any changes affecting registered particulars through updates of the associated VFI Registration Record.

HCRs issued on application are valid for 12 months from the date of issue. HCR holders must renew no less than three months prior to the expiration date, in accordance with VFI.OR.C1.015(d).

7. Applicable Fees

Applicable fees for initial issue, renewal or re-issue of an HCR after 30 September 2026 are specified for "Other General Aviation Activities" in Information Bulletin 2006-14 – Fees and Charges. The GCAA reserves the right to apply fees to any discretionary certification application submitted by a heliport owner/operator otherwise eligible for an HCR.

HCR applications submitted by 30 September 2026 are free of charge, irrespective of the date the HCR is issued.

8. Key Dates

- **30 June 2026** - CAR-AGA Part VFI (Issue 02) effective; Heliport Certificate of Registration (HCR) framework operative.
- **30 September 2026** - Expiry of Initial HCRs. Deadline for submission of HCR applications, including the online Declaration of Compliance and linking of any applicable aviation security clearance. Applications submitted by this date meet the deadline and are free of charge, irrespective of the date the HCR is issued. Where no application is submitted, the heliport will show Unverified status; applications submitted after this date attract applicable fees.
- **1 October 2026** – Fees apply to HCR applications submitted on or after this date. Helicopter operators to use only domestic heliports holding Heliport, Vertiport or Hybrid Heliport/Vertiport Certificate or Verified HCR with 'Operational' status for planned domestic helicopter operations.

9. Operator Actions

- **Heliport Owners/Operators**
 - **Review their VFI Registration Record** and ensure all particulars are accurate and up to date, with particular attention to ownership and control details. Update operational status, including closures.



- Apply for an HCR, including the online Declaration of Compliance, by 30 September 2026.
This is required regardless of operational status or whether an aviation security clearance is required.
- Ensure the validity of any associated **aviation security clearances**, which must be referenced along with the Declaration of Compliance during the HCR application process.

- **Helicopter Operators**

Confirm during flight preparation that any domestic heliport used for planned domestic helicopter operations holds a Heliport or Hybrid Heliport/Vertiport Certificate or a Verified HCR with 'Operational' status as described in Section 4. Heliports holding an HCR shown as Unverified, or not declared 'Operational', shall not be used for planned domestic helicopter operations.

10. Summary

When is a Heliport holding an HCR available for planned helicopter operations?		HCR Status	
		Verified	Unverified
Heliport Operational Status as Declared on the HCR	Operational	Available for Planned Operations	Not Available for Planned Operations
	Not Operational (i.e. Design Phase, Under Construction, Closed)	Not Available for Planned Operations	Not Available for Planned Operations

CONTACTS

- Regulatory and operational enquiries – **GCAA Principal Inspector**
- VFI Registration Record enquiries - **ana@gcaa.gov.ae**
- e-Services / system access: **CustomerCare@gcaa.gov.ae**
- GCAA website: **<https://www.gcaa.gov.ae>**