
ENR 1 GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

ENR 1.1 GENERAL RULES

1. APPLICABILITY AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE AIR

1.1 Applicability with the rules of the air

1.1.1 Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA) shall apply to general air traffic operating in Tirana FIR regardless of type or State of registration.

1.1.2 The Implementing Regulation (EU) No 923/2012 - SERA is the transposition into law of ICAO Annex 2 - Rules of the Air and parts of ICAO Annex 3 - Meteorology, Annex 10 - Communication Procedures, Annex 11 - Air Traffic Services and Doc 4444 – Air Traffic Management. The differences from ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices are published in GEN 1.7.

1.1.3 For flight over the high seas, the rules specified in Annex 2 to the Chicago Convention shall apply without exception.

1.1.4 Implementing Regulation (EU) 923/2012 - SERA, supporting Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material can be found at <http://easa.europa.eu/regulations>

1.2 Exemptions for special operations

1.2.1 The competent authorities may, either on their own initiative or based on applications by the entities concerned, grant exemptions to individual entities or to categories of entities from any of the requirements of SERA for the following activities of public interest and for the training necessary to carry out those activities safely:

- a. police and customs missions;
- b. traffic surveillance and pursuit missions;
- c. environmental control missions conducted by, or on behalf of public authorities;
- d. search and rescue;
- e. medical flights;
- f. evacuations;
- g. fire fighting;
- h. flights by heads of State.

1.2.2 These exemptions may be applied in the cases where the activities listed above cannot be carried out as operational air traffic.

1.3 Compliance with the rules of the air (SERA.2005)

1.3.1 The operation of an aircraft either in flight, on the movement area of an aerodrome or at an operating site shall be in compliance with the general rules, the applicable local provisions and, in addition, when in flight, either with:

- a. the visual flight rules; or
- b. the instrument flight rules.

1.4 Responsibilities (SERA.2010)

1.4.1 Responsibility of the pilot-in-command

1.4.1.1 The pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall, whether manipulating the controls or not, be responsible for the operation of the aircraft in accordance with SERA, except that the pilot-in-command may depart from these rules in circumstances that render such departure absolutely necessary in the interests of safety.

1.4.2 Pre-flight action

1.4.2.1 Before beginning a flight, the pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall become familiar with all available information appropriate to the intended operation. Pre-flight action for flights away from the vicinity of an aerodrome, and for all IFR flights, shall include a careful study of available current weather reports and forecasts, taking into consideration fuel requirements and an alternative course of action if the flight cannot be completed as planned.

1.5 Authority of pilot-in-command of an aircraft (SERA.2015)

1.5.1 The pilot-in-command of an aircraft shall have final authority as to the disposition of the aircraft while in command.

1.6 Problematic use of psychoactive substances (SERA.2020)

1.6.1 No person whose function is critical to the safety of aviation (safety-sensitive personnel) shall undertake that function while under the influence of any psychoactive substance, by reason of which human performance is impaired. No such person shall engage in any kind of problematic use of substances.

2. PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

2.1 Negligent or reckless operation of aircraft (SERA.3101)

2.1.1 An aircraft shall not be operated in a negligent or reckless manner so as to endanger life or property of others.

2.2 Minimum heights (SERA.3105)

2.2.1 Except when necessary for take-off or landing, or except by permission from the competent authority, aircraft shall not be flown over the congested areas of cities, towns or settlements or over an open-air assembly of persons, unless at such a height as will permit, in the event of an emergency arising, a landing to be made without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface. The minimum heights for VFR flights shall be those specified in ENR 1.2 and minimum levels for IFR flights shall be those specified in ENR 1.3.

2.3 Cruising levels (SERA.3110)

2.3.1 The cruising levels at which a flight or a portion of a flight is to be conducted shall be in terms of:

- a. flight levels, for flights at or above the lowest usable flight level or, where applicable, above the transition altitude;
- b. altitudes, for flights below the lowest usable flight level or, where applicable, at or below the transition altitude.

2.4 Dropping or spraying (SERA.3115)

2.4.1 Dropping or spraying from an aircraft in flight shall only be conducted in accordance with:

- a. national legislation for aircraft operations; and
- b. as indicated by any relevant information, advice and/or clearance from the appropriate air traffic services unit.

2.5 Towing (SERA.3120)

2.5.1 An aircraft or other object shall only be towed by an aircraft in accordance with:

- a. national legislation for aircraft operations; and
- b. as indicated by any relevant information, advice and/or clearance from the appropriate air traffic services unit.

2.6 Parachute descents (SERA.3125)

2.6.1 Parachute descents, other than emergency descents, shall only be made in accordance with:

- a. national legislation for aircraft operations; and
- b. as indicated by any relevant information, advice and/or clearance from the appropriate air traffic services unit.

2.7 Aerobatic flight (SERA.3130)

2.7.1 Aerobatic flights shall only be carried out in accordance with:

- a. national legislation for aircraft operations; and
- b. as indicated by any relevant information, advice and/or clearance from the appropriate air traffic services unit.

2.8 Formation flights (SERA.3135)

2.8.1 Aircraft shall not be flown in formation except by pre-arrangement among the pilots-in-command of the aircraft taking part in the flight.

2.8.2 For formation flight in controlled airspace, the following conditions shall apply:

- a. one of the pilots-in-command shall be designated as the flight leader;
- b. the formation operates as a single aircraft with regard to navigation and position reporting (emergency service is provided to all aircraft in formation);
- c. when submitting the flight plan (FPL) registration marks of other aircraft in the formation shall be inserted in the field 18 after the abbreviation REG;
- d. in initial contact with the ATC, the formation leader shall clearly state the number of aircraft in formation;
- e. separation between aircraft in the flight shall be the responsibility of the flight leader and the pilots-in-command of the other aircraft in the flight and shall include periods of transition when aircraft are manoeuvring to attain their own separation within the formation and during join-up and breakaway;
- f. for State aircraft a maximum lateral, longitudinal and vertical distance between each aircraft and the flight leader in accordance with the Chicago Convention. For other than State aircraft a distance not exceeding 1 km (0.5 nm) laterally and longitudinally and 30 m (100 ft) vertically from the flight leader shall be maintained by each aircraft;
- g. formations in controlled airspace shall be contained within 1 nm laterally and longitudinally and at the same level. Where this is not possible, the formation must be split into individual elements before entering controlled airspace. In the event that aircraft within the formation are unable to maintain within these parameters, the formation leader must immediately inform ATC;
- h. VFR formation flights by civilian aircraft transiting CTR/TMA are subject to normal airspace requirements as detailed in relevant sections of AIP Albania;
- i. prior to entering controlled airspace, the formation leader shall confirm that all aircraft within the formation are within 1 nm laterally and longitudinally, and if in level flight, are at the same level;
- j. when a formation has been cleared to climb or descend in controlled airspace, the formation leader shall confirm that all aircraft have reached the new assigned level;
- k. in case of break up the formation, the leader of formation shall report this fact to ATS unit in control. The ATS unit then ensures separations among the aircraft. Radio contact with each aircraft is maintained according to its registration mark;
- l. assigned SSR code shall be switched on by formation leader only. Other aircraft in the formation shall have their transponders on "STAND BY" code as the formation leader, unless they receive other instructions from ATC. In case of break up, before identifying and providing separation, the ATS unit shall assign each aircraft a discrete code from the pool of domestic codes from 0060 to 0077;
- m. all aircraft in the formation are to monitor the relevant ATC frequency;

- n. minimum radar separation from formation flight shall be increased by 1 nm laterally;
- o. clearances or instructions to the formation leader shall be given in sufficient time to enable him to give orders to be executed by the other pilots of the formation; and
- p. take-offs and landings are carried out in a formation unless the formation leader requests to provide air traffic service separately for each aircraft in the formation when a formation flight is carried out within aerodrome traffic.

2.9 Unmanned free balloons (SERA.3140)

- 2.9.1 An unmanned free balloon shall be operated in such a manner as to minimise hazards to persons, property or other aircraft and in accordance with the conditions specified in Appendix 2 of SERA.

2.10 Prohibited areas and restricted areas (SERA.3145)

- 2.10.1 Aircraft shall not be flown in a prohibited area, or in a restricted area, the particulars of which have been duly published, except in accordance with the conditions of the restrictions or by permission from the competent authority.

3. AVOIDANCE OF COLLISIONS

3.1 General (SERA.3201)

- 3.1.1 Nothing in SERA shall relieve the pilot-in-command of an aircraft from the responsibility of taking such action, including collision avoidance manoeuvres based on resolution advisories provided by ACAS equipment, as will best avert collision.

3.2 Proximity (SERA.3205)

- 3.2.1 An aircraft shall not be operated in such proximity to other aircraft as to create a collision hazard.

3.3 Right-of-way (SERA.3210)

- 3.3.1 The aircraft that has the right-of-way shall maintain its heading and speed.

- 3.3.2 An aircraft that is aware that the manoeuvrability of another aircraft is impaired shall give way to that aircraft.

- 3.3.3 An aircraft that is obliged by the following rules to keep out of the way of another shall avoid passing over, under or in front of the other, unless it passes well clear and takes into account the effect of aircraft wake turbulence.

- 3.3.3.1 *Approaching head-on.* When two aircraft are approaching head-on or approximately so and there is danger of collision, each shall alter its heading to the right.

- 3.3.3.2 *Converging.* When two aircraft are converging at approximately the same level, the aircraft that has the other on its right shall give way, except as follows:

- a. power-driven heavier-than-air aircraft shall give way to airships, sailplanes and balloons;
- b. airships shall give way to sailplanes and balloons;
- c. sailplanes shall give way to balloons;
- d. power-driven aircraft shall give way to aircraft which are seen to be towing other aircraft or objects.

- 3.3.3.3 *Overtaking.* An overtaking aircraft is an aircraft that approaches another from the rear on a line forming an angle of less than 70 degrees with the plane of symmetry of the latter, i.e. is in such a position with reference to the other aircraft that at night it should be unable to see either of the aircraft's left (port) or right (starboard) navigation lights. An aircraft that is being overtaken has the right-of-way and the overtaking aircraft, whether climbing, descending or in horizontal flight, shall keep out of the way of the other aircraft by altering its heading to the right, and no subsequent change in the relative positions of the two aircraft shall absolve the overtaking aircraft from this obligation until it is entirely past and clear.

- 3.3.3.3.1 *Sailplanes overtaking.* A sailplane overtaking another sailplane may alter its course to the right or to the left.

- 3.3.3.4 *Landing.* An aircraft in flight, or operating on the ground or water, shall give way to aircraft landing or in the final stages of an approach to land.
- 3.3.3.4.1 When two or more heavier-than-air aircraft are approaching an aerodrome or an operating site for the purpose of landing, aircraft at the higher level shall give way to aircraft at the lower level, but the latter shall not take advantage of this rule to cut in front of another which is in the final stages of an approach to land, or to overtake that aircraft. Nevertheless, power-driven heavier-than-air aircraft shall give way to sailplanes.
- 3.3.3.4.2 *Emergency landing.* An aircraft that is aware that another is compelled to land shall give way to that aircraft.
- 3.3.3.5 *Taking off.* An aircraft taxiing on the manoeuvring area of an aerodrome shall give way to aircraft taking off or about to take off.
- 3.3.4 Surface movement of aircraft, persons and vehicles.
- 3.3.4.1 In case of danger of collision between two aircraft taxiing on the movement area of an aerodrome or equivalent part of an operating site, the following shall apply:
- a. when two aircraft are approaching head on, or approximately so, each shall stop or where practicable alter its course to the right so as to keep well clear;
 - b. when two aircraft are on a converging course, the one which has the other on its right shall give way;
 - c. an aircraft which is being overtaken by another aircraft shall have the right-of-way and the overtaking aircraft shall keep well clear of the other aircraft.
- 3.3.4.2 At a controlled aerodrome an aircraft taxiing on the manoeuvring area shall stop and hold at all runway-holding positions unless an explicit clearance to enter or cross the runway has been issued by the aerodrome control tower.
- 3.3.4.3 An aircraft taxiing on the manoeuvring area shall stop and hold at all lighted stop bars and may proceed further in accordance with paragraph 3.3.4.2 when the lights are switched off.
- 3.3.4.4 Movement of persons and vehicles at aerodromes:
- 3.3.4.4.1 The movement of persons or vehicles, including towed aircraft, on the manoeuvring area of an aerodrome shall be controlled by the aerodrome control tower as necessary to avoid hazard to them or to aircraft landing, taxiing or taking off;
- 3.3.4.4.2 In conditions where low visibility procedures are in operation:
- a. persons and vehicles operating on the manoeuvring area of an aerodrome shall be restricted to the essential minimum, and particular regard shall be given to the requirements to protect the critical and sensitive area(s) of radio navigation aids;
 - b. subject to the provisions in paragraph 3.3.4.1, c), the method or methods to separate vehicles and taxiing aircraft shall be as specified by the Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) and approved by the competent authority taking into account the aids available;
- 3.3.4.4.3 Emergency vehicles proceeding to the assistance of an aircraft in distress shall be afforded priority over all other surface movement traffic.
- 3.3.4.4.4 Subject to the provisions in 3.3.4.4.3, vehicles on the manoeuvring area shall be required to comply with the following rules:
- a. vehicles and vehicles towing aircraft shall give way to aircraft which are landing, taking-off, or taxiing;
 - b. vehicles shall give way to other vehicles towing aircraft;
 - c. vehicles shall give way to other vehicles in accordance with air traffic services unit instructions;
 - d. notwithstanding the provisions of a), b) and c), vehicles and vehicles towing aircraft shall comply with instructions issued by the aerodrome control tower.

3.4 Lights to be displayed by aircraft (SERA.3215)

3.4.1 Except as provided in paragraph 3.4.5, at night all aircraft in flight shall display:

- a. anti-collision lights intended to attract attention to the aircraft; and
- b. navigation lights intended to indicate the relative path of the aircraft to an observer and other lights shall not be displayed if they are likely to be mistaken for these lights; or
- c. in the case of balloons, position lights.

3.4.2 Except as provided in paragraph 3.4.5, at night:

- a. all aircraft moving on the movement area of an aerodrome shall display navigation lights intended to indicate the relative path of the aircraft to an observer and other lights shall not be displayed if they are likely to be mistaken for these lights;
- b. unless stationary and otherwise adequately illuminated, all aircraft on the movement area of an aerodrome shall display lights intended to indicate the extremities of their structure, as far as practicable;
- c. all aircraft taxiing or being towed on the movement area of an aerodrome shall display lights intended to attract attention to the aircraft; and
- d. all aircraft on the movement area of an aerodrome whose engines are running shall display lights which indicate that fact.

3.4.3 Except as provided in paragraph 3.4.5, all aircraft in flight and fitted with anti-collision lights to meet the requirement of paragraph 3.4.1, a) shall display such lights also during day.

3.4.4 Except as provided in paragraph 3.4.5, all aircraft:

- a. taxiing or being towed on the movement area of an aerodrome and fitted with anti-collision lights, to meet the requirement of paragraph 3.4.2, c); or
- b. on the movement area of an aerodrome and fitted with lights to meet the requirement of paragraph 3.4.2, d);

shall display such lights also during day.

3.4.5 A pilot shall be permitted to switch off or reduce the intensity of any flashing lights fitted to meet the requirements of paragraphs 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 if they do or are likely to:

- a. adversely affect the satisfactory performance of duties; or
- b. subject an outside observer to harmful dazzle.

3.5 Simulated instrument flights (SERA.3220)

3.5.1 An aircraft shall not be flown under simulated instrument flight conditions unless:

- a. fully functioning dual controls are installed in the aircraft; and
- b. an additional qualified pilot (in this rule called a safety pilot) occupies a control seat to act as safety pilot for the person who is flying under simulated instrument conditions. The safety pilot shall have adequate vision forward and to each side of the aircraft, or a competent observer in communication with the safety pilot shall occupy a position in the aircraft from which the observer's field of vision adequately supplements that of the safety pilot.

3.6 Operation on and in the vicinity of an aerodrome (SERA.3225)

3.6.1 An aircraft operated on or in the vicinity of an aerodrome shall:

- a. observe other aerodrome traffic for the purpose of avoiding collision;

- b. conform with or avoid the pattern of traffic formed by other aircraft in operation;
- c. except for balloons, make all turns to the left, when approaching for a landing and after taking off, unless otherwise indicated, or instructed by ATC;
- d. except for balloons, land and take off into the wind unless safety, the runway configuration, or air traffic considerations determine that a different direction is preferable.

3.7 Water operations (SERA.3230)

- 3.7.1 When two aircraft or an aircraft and a vessel are approaching one another and there is a risk of collision, the aircraft shall proceed with careful regard to existing circumstances and conditions including the limitations of the respective craft:
- a. *Converging.* An aircraft which has another aircraft or a vessel on its right shall give way so as to keep well clear.
 - b. *Approaching head-on.* An aircraft approaching another aircraft or a vessel head-on, or approximately so, shall alter its heading to the right to keep well clear.
 - c. *Overtaking.* The aircraft or vessel which is being overtaken has the right of way, and the one overtaking shall alter its heading to keep well clear.
 - d. *Landing and taking off.* Aircraft landing on or taking off from the water shall, in so far as practicable, keep well clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their navigation.
- 3.7.2 *Lights to be displayed by aircraft on the water.* At night, all aircraft on the water shall display lights as required by the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, unless it is impractical for them to do so, in which case they shall display lights as closely similar as possible in characteristics and position to those required by the International Regulations.

4. SIGNALS

4.1 General (SERA.3301)

- 4.1.1 Upon observing or receiving any of the signals given in Appendix 1 of SERA, aircraft shall take such action as may be required by the interpretation of the signal given in that Appendix.
- 4.1.2 The signals of Appendix 1 shall, when used, have the meaning indicated therein. They shall be used only for the purpose indicated and no other signals likely to be confused with them shall be used.
- 4.1.3 A signalman/marshaller shall be responsible for providing standard marshalling signals to aircraft in a clear and precise manner using the signals shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.4 Only persons trained, qualified and approved as required by the relevant national legislation shall carry out the functions of a signalman/marshaller.
- 4.1.5 The signalman/marshaller shall wear a distinctive fluorescent identification vest to allow the flight crew to identify that he or she is the person responsible for the marshalling operation.
- 4.1.6 Daylight-fluorescent wands, table-tennis bats or gloves shall be used for all signalling by all participating ground staff during daylight hours. Illuminated wands shall be used at night or in low visibility.

5. TIME

5.1 General (SERA.3401)

- 5.1.1 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) shall be used and shall be expressed in hours and minutes and, when required, seconds of the 24-hour day beginning at midnight.
- 5.1.2 A time check shall be obtained prior to operating a controlled flight and at such other times during the flight as may be necessary.
- 5.1.3 Wherever time is utilised in the application of data link communications, it shall be accurate to within 1 second

of UTC.

5.1.4 Time in air traffic services

5.1.4.1 Aerodrome control towers shall, prior to an aircraft taxiing for take-off, provide the pilot with the correct time. Air traffic services units shall, in addition, provide aircraft with the correct time on request. Time checks shall be given at least to the nearest minute.