

Professional Standard: Registered Air Operations Manager

Authority

This standard was endorsed by the AFAC Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme Panel on 29 September 2021.

Context

The AFAC Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme (the Scheme) is a program to recognise the skills, abilities and experience of emergency management practitioners.

Established by AFAC, the National Council for fire, land management and emergency service agencies in Australia and New Zealand, the Scheme is an initiative designed to promote emergency management as a profession.

The Scheme is open to career and volunteer personnel of AFAC member agencies, as well as individuals from other approved organisations or who have AFAC member agency support.

Scope of application

This standard applies to applicants seeking registration in the role of Air Operations Manager.

Hazard specific expertise is evaluated as part of the education component of eligibility and is a matter for the assessing agency to determine. Registration is limited to the role and is not separated into hazard classes.

Applicants may be career staff or volunteers of AFAC member agencies or personnel from approved government, commercial or other entities.

Credential

The Registered Air Operations Manager credential is awarded to an individual who has successfully fulfilled all eligibility requirements.

The Air Operations Manager provides overall coordination of more complex aerial operations and manages the Air Operations Unit for the response to an incident or several incidents.

The Air Operations Manager is the most senior aviation officer at the incident and is responsible for:

- providing the IMT with specialist advice on the capability, use and management of aircraft resources
- planning and preparation of the Air Operations Plan in collaboration with the Operations and Planning Sections of the IMT
- ensuring aerial operations missions are conducted in a safe, effective and efficient way and comply with legislation, Civil Aviation Regulations and agency policy and procedures
- supervising the work of personnel within the Air Operations Unit.

The Air Operations Manager normally operates from the Incident Control Centre (ICC) where the IMT is located. Alternatively, where the Air Operations Manager is operating across several incidents, they may locate at the Regional Control Centre (RCC). Reports to: The Operations Officer.

Education requirements for Air Operations Manager

Applicants must be able to provide documented evidence of successful completion of the education components and all associated prerequisites as specified in Table 1.

Table 1:

Course or Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUAFIR004 Manage complex aerial operations for an incident 22459VIC – Course in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) 22541VIC – Course in Basic wildfire awareness (or equivalent).
<p>SPECIAL NOTE: Where an Applicant held the competencies specified for the role of Air Operations Manager under the superseded Fire Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2011), then, so long as they have maintained their currency they are deemed to have fulfilled the education requirements of this Standard.</p>

Experience requirements for Air Operations Manager

Applicants must be able to provide documented evidence to demonstrate that he or she:

- Has committed to the EMPS Code of Ethics 2017
- Is endorsed by their agency *either* as an Air Attack Supervisor *or* as an Aircraft Officer or both
- Has at least two years' combined experience as an Air Attack Supervisor, Aircraft Officer and Air Operations Manager
- Has performed the role of Air Operations Manager in over at least one operational season without mentoring or supervision
- Is supported by their home agency or jurisdiction.

Definitions

Two years' combined experience:	Is active experience over at least two operational seasons during which the individual has carried out the role of Air Attack Supervisor, Aircraft Officer or Air Operations Manager.
Operational season	Is that part of a 12-month period in which the natural hazard class managed by an agency is likely to occur with greatest frequency. There is only one operational season in a 12-month period.

Continuing Professional Development:

To maintain currency, the Air Operations Manager must complete 10 hours of CPD each financial year. This must include a practical CPD activity, performing the role during an actual or simulated operational situation.

Notes:

- Practical CPD for Air Operations Manager also counts for Aircraft Officer and Air Base Manager.
- Practical CPD for Aircraft Officer also counts for Air Base Manager.
- Practical CPD for State Air Operations Coordinator also counts for Air Operations Manager.

Review

This standard will commence 29 September 2021. The EMPS Panel will review this standard after five years or as required.

Related professional standards

- Code of Ethics (2017).
- Professional Standard: Continuing Professional Development (2018).