

Professional Standard: Registered Aircraft Officer

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 Aircraft Officer.

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 Aircraft Officer credential is awarded to an individual who has successfully fulfilled all eligibility requirements.

The Aircraft Officer is responsible for managing aircraft resources and coordinating services to support aerial operations missions. The aircraft used for aerial operations missions may include fixed wing aircraft, rotary wing aircraft and /or remotely piloted aircraft. The missions may include aerial firebombing, aerial observation, remote sensing, aerial incendiary operations, helicopter insertion of people and equipment into remote areas and transport of people and equipment.

The Aircraft Officer may appoint an Air Base Manager to manage the delivery of air base services.

The Aircraft Officer reports to the Air Operations Manager (where appointed) or to the Operations Officer.

Education requirements for Aircraft Officer

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"> • PUAFIR003 – Manage aviation support operations at air base • 22459VIC – Course in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) • 22541VIC – Course in Basic wildfire awareness (or equivalent) • PUAFIR002 – Manage aviation resources for an incident.
<p>SPECIAL NOTE: Where an Applicant held the competencies specified for the role of Airbase Manager/Aircraft Officer 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 equivalent education requirements for this Standard.</p>

Experience requirements for Aircraft Officer

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 as an Airbase Manager
- Has at least two years' combined experience as an Airbase Manager and Aircraft Officer
- Has performed the role of Aircraft Officer 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 Airbase Manager or Aircraft Officer.
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 Aircraft Officer 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.

Review

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

Related professional standards

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