

Helicopter ditching: rulemaking and research
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The presentation provides an overview on the rulemaking and research activities performed by EASA in the last decade to improve the level of safety of helicopters involved in overwater operation. Starting from the report of the rulemaking working group formed in 2012, several tasks have been launched to address survivability of occupants following ditching or water impact, through the introduction of new requirements in the relevant certification specifications and ETSOs, and of retroactive requirements improving the airworthiness of the in-service fleet. In parallel, EASA has launched research projects investing fundings received from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, with the objective to provide answers to technical issues regarding the feasibility of providing a step change in occupant survivability in ditching or water impact of helicopters.