

Info EASA CM-CS-005 PCDS (CS-27./29.865)

On 8th of December 2014, the 1st issue of the EASA Certification Memorandum “Helicopter External Loads – Personnel Carrying Device System” (EASA CM-CS-005) was published.

This CM on PCDS applies to CS 27/29.865 and verifies the definitions, range of applications, limits and calculations of so-called “simple PCDS”.

In Switzerland, this CM-CS-005 has replaced the previous FOCA GM 50.605-20 regarding rescue devices. From the manufacturers’ point of view, what are the differences between the new CM-CS-005 (CM) and the previous FOCA GM 50.605-20 (GM)?

In principle there aren’t many!

- All relevant coefficients for the calculations were already indicated by the GM. However, the CM is more accurate and relates to the corresponding CS 27/29 articles.

- The TC already stated that PPE holding an EC type examination certificate was approved. In this case, as well, the new CM is more accurate and specifies all relevant EN standards for PPE against falls from a height relating to EC directive 89/686/EEC. PPE against falls, certified according to an EN standard, now belongs to the category of "simple PCDS" and hosts 1 or 2 individuals.*
- The previous GM made no differentiation between "simple" and "complex" whereas the new CM, instead, manages to draw quite a clear line – a couple of definitions are lacking, but at least a line has been drawn – thus putting an end to the endless discussions about "which is which".
- The application of safety factors was not precise in the GM and left a broad margin for deviation. The new CM simplifies the application of the factors and allocates them clearly: factor 7 [-] for metallic components, 14 [-] for textiles.
- Compared with EC machinery directive 2006/42/EC, annex I, 6, factor 14 [-] for textiles is exactly the same, while factor 7 [-] for metallic components is a little lower, since the machinery directive demanded factor 8 [-].

* For helicopter operators, this is the greatest difference between the previous GM and the new CM: According to FOCA TC, all regularly certified components were "accepted", while the new CM demands further approval following a "minor change" procedure – a real red tape! Moreover, the GM did not limit the number of individuals to be transported.



How will these changes affect A&H EQU products?

Not at all!

- **A&H EQU** has always been manufacturing and testing intransigently, adhering strictly to the severest GM 50.605-20 requirements. Hence, we have always been starting where other manufacturers gave up!
- **A&H EQU** products will now have a slightly wider range of application, due to the lower safety margins of steel components (previously safety factor 8 [-], now 7 [-]).
- **A&H EQU** has always been manufacturing customized products (series, but also single pieces), which are serialized and labelled including the WLL allowed, date of manufacture, expiry date, part number and type approval number.
- **A&H EQU** produces a wide range of lanyards according to EN 354 and EN 358. (see Products/HEC/simple PCDS)

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