

Noise Abatement and concessions



January 2014

Aircraft Operators on Public Conservation Land

The Department has long been concerned about the effect of aircraft noise on other users of public conservation land. This effect is well documented in certain locations across the country – notably Milford Sound and other remote locations. To manage this effect the Department has worked with aviation industry representatives with the view to creation of noise abatement processes for aircraft operators.

The Aviation Industry Association developed the AIRCARE programme which included a noise abatement section providing a remedy for DOC's concerns about noise effects. Since 1 January 2013 all concessions for aircraft operations on public conservation land have included a condition that requires the operator to hold AIRCARE accreditation or an equivalent.

As you were advised in June 2013, DOC placed that condition 'on hold' until two things had happened. First, that an equivalent or alternative noise management scheme became available and secondly, DOC had considered whether a targeted approach to locations would be more reasonable.

The position now is that DOC has decided to limit the locations to which the requirement applies, and that there are alternatives to AIRCARE available.

Locations where there will be a requirement for noise abatement certification

The locations (listed below), have documented noise issues. DOC will require aircraft concessionaires to hold certification that demonstrates they (and any pilot flying their aircraft) have undertaken noise abatement training. Secondly the Department requires concessionaires (and any pilot flying their aircraft) to operate in a manner to be compliant with that training while flying in those locations.

- Hooker and Tasman Valleys – Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park
- Glacier Valleys – Westland National Park
- Milford Sound, Milford Track, Routeburn Track, Hollyford Valley, Greenstone and Caples Valley, Gertrude Saddle – Fiordland National Park

Please refer to the DOC website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/> or check with your Permissions Advisor (the lead person for your concession) for additions/alterations to this list.

Organisations providing noise abatement programmes

There are currently three organisations that provide noise abatement programmes for operators to sign up to:

- Aviation Industry Association (AIA) as part of their AIRCARE programme
<http://www.aia.org.nz/AIRCARE/How+to+become+AIRCARE+Accredited.html>
- Qualmark (New Zealand Tourism's official quality assurance organisation)

- <http://www.qualmark.co.nz>
➤ NZAIG (NZ Aviation Industry Group)

If your concession contains any of these locations and was signed up prior to June 2013:

You will have the condition in your concession that says you have to have Aircare or equivalent. This is confirmation that you must hold certification that demonstrates you (and any pilot flying your aircraft) have undertaken noise abatement training. Secondly the Department requires you (and any pilot flying your aircraft) to consistently operate in a manner to be compliant with that training while flying in those locations.

If your concession contains any of these locations and was signed after June 2013:

This is confirmation that you must hold certification that demonstrates you (and any pilot flying your aircraft) have undertaken noise abatement training. Secondly the Department requires you (and any pilot flying your aircraft) to consistently operate in a manner to be compliant with that training while flying in those locations.

If your concession does not contain any of these locations and was signed up prior to June 2013:

You are not required to hold the noise abatement certification at this time; however we do suggest operators ensure appropriate noise management practices are followed. If there is an increase in adverse noise effects at a location that you have in your concession the Department may require you to obtain noise abatement certification, but we will advise you of this in plenty of time.

If your concession does not contain any of these locations and was signed up after June 2013:

You are not required to hold the noise abatement certification at this time; however we do suggest operators ensure appropriate noise management practices are followed. If there is an increase in adverse noise effects at a location that you have in your concession the Department may require you to obtain noise abatement certification, but we will advise you of this in plenty of time.

In those locations where certification is required it must be obtained three months from the date of this letter (21 April 2014), or 3 months from the beginning of a new or re-issued concession or WARO permit – whichever is the later.

For any further information please contact your Permissions Advisor as per the contact details either on your concession document or on the DOC website. <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/concessions/contacts/> .

