

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION**



**Operations Manual**

**OPERATION OF MODEL AIRCRAFT FROM SAMAA REGISTERED  
FIELDS**

Issue 1 – 2011

**PR 04**

Management Committee  
and SIG Approved

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This document forms part of the SAMAA Manual of Procedures. It is to be used by SAMAA Members and Registered Clubs in all activities associated with the flying of model aircraft in the RSA.

## 1..PURPOSE

The purpose of this Procedure is to clarify the guidelines and conditions under which Model Aircraft shall operate at a SAMAA Registered field or Club. Almost all the guidelines and requirements are those which have been adopted Internationally and all are related to ensuring Safety for all persons present at the flying site, and other users of the airspace.

These restrictions have been in place in the RSA for many years, but have now been formalised and set down in the SAMAA Manual of Operations. This Manual of Operations forms the crux of our Application to the CAA for recognition as the Aviation Recreational Organisation for model aircraft in the RSA, and was submitted to the CAA in October 2010, with a request for our Aviation Recreational Organisation Status to be extended for a further 5 years. This status confirm that we are the only co-ordinator for Model Aircraft flying in the RSA.

**The Manual of Operations, which contains all the Procedures is the controlling document which sets down the conditions under which model aircraft may be operated, when being flown at SAMAA Registered fields, These conditions, rules and guidelines are listed and summarised in the SAMAA Operations Manual, Procedure PR 03.**

In parallel to our submission to be reappointed ARO for model Aircraft, we have been working for many years on having the official height limit for model flying at a SAMAA registered field increased from 150 to 400 Feet AGL.

Finally at the NASCOM meeting held in the CAA Offices on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011, a working/information paper was tabled by the Aero Club on behalf of SAMAA, which requested that the legal height at which model aircraft could be flown, at all AIP listed sites (SAMAA registered fields) be increased to 400 ft AGL.

This proposal was accepted by the NASCOM committee subject to the following;

- 1.) That SAMAA sites falling outside 5 NM from an aerodrome, will unconditionally be cleared to 400ft AGL.
- 1.) That those SAMAA sites which fall within the CTR ( control zone) or 5NM of a registered or manned Airfield (ie has an active air traffic control facility) will have to enter into an agreement with the relevant Airport Authorities.

- 2.) Those SAMAA sites which fall within 5NM of a registered Aerodrome, which may be a Municipal or private aerodrome, will need to enter into an agreement with the relevant parties, controlling or using the facility. ( most of these model aircraft are actually using the aerodrome facilities.)
- 3.) That those SAMAA registered fields which fall under or within the TMA (Terminal Control Area) of a registered airfield will require a special agreement to be entered into with the relevant Airport Authorities..

For the new height limits to be usable at clubs, the SAMAA registered clubs must be Categorised into groups listed above, and Agreements must be made with the relevant authorities required generally as set out below. This means that each club which is affected must contact and draw up the necessary Agreement with their nearest Airfield or Aerodrome..

A second phase of this exercise will be to clarify the procedure for obtaining additional height clearance for those members who need to operate over 400 feet, like gliders, pattern and large Scale..

To clarify the requirements of the CAA and ATNS for models to use the airspace

**Catagory 1** (Clubs falling outside full size controlled airspace)

No conditions are imposed on these clubs, other than;

- i) The maximum height models may be flown at these fields, without an exemption being requested and granted, is limited to 400feet AGL.
- ii) That the model pilot takes complete avoiding action whenever a Manned or full size aircraft is in the vicinity.

**Caragory 2** (Clubs falling within the CTR or Controlled airspace)

The conditions that the Clubs or flying sites in this group will have to comply with are;

- i) That no model may be flown higher than 400feet AGL.
- ii) That regular Annual meetings will need to be held with the ATNS representatives at the Full size Airport and the following conditional agreements will need to be enforced at the Club.
- iii) The ATNS must be contacted and informed whenever model activity is to take place at the flying field.
- iv) Any pilot flying will have a spotter present, the purpose of this spotter is to ensure that the model pilot is aware and takes avoiding action whenever a manned or full size aircraft is in the immediate area of the club of field.

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**Category 3.** (Clubs which fall within 5NM of an Aerodrome)

The conditions that clubs or flying site in this group will have to comply with are;

- i) That no model may be flown higher than 400 feet AGL.
- ii) That the Club will meet with the Municipality, Owner, and/or other users of the aerodrome, and agree procedures that will be used by the model aircraft operators. This agreement will certainly include the ownership and use of a two way hand held radio, to communicate with full size aircraft using the aerodrome.
- iii) Any pilot flying will have a spotter present.
- iv) All model flying will cease when a full size aircraft wishes to use the aerodrome.

**Category 4** (Clubs falling within the TMA of a manned airfield)

The conditions that clubs or flying site in this group will have to comply with are;

- i) That no model may be flown higher than 400 feet AGL.
- ii) That the Club will meet with the ATNS Representative of the Full size Airport and make known their Club location and presence.
- iii) Any pilot flying will have a spotter present

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