

OAS-43A
(12/12)



Interagency Aviation Accident Prevention Bulletin



No. IA APB 21-03

June 1, 2021

Page 1 of 2

Subject: Aviation Life Support Equipment

Area of Concern: Flight Safety

Distribution: All Aviation Activities

Discussion: ALSE – Helmet Update

This notice is to remind everyone that the deadline extension of January 1, 2021 for complying with the flight helmet requirements in section 2.2 (5) of the Interagency Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) Handbook/Guide has passed. [IA APB 20-01](#) provided the background and rationale for that extension. As a result, all DOI and USFS personnel along with affected contractors are now expected to meet these requirements.

Despite the challenges resulting from the global pandemic, the flight helmet manufacturing industry was able to rise to the challenge, successfully testing over 30 sizes/models (to date). The list of successfully tested helmets on the [OAS website](#) represent an unprecedented choice of helmets that have been proven to meet performance standards.

Again, the extended deadline has expired.

“But my helmet is not on the list?!”

If you find that your preferred helmet is not on the list, then it is not approved for use within the Department of Interior or the US Forest Service. It is important to review the [approved helmet list](#) to ensure your helmet is on that list as some previous models have not demonstrated that they can meet the performance standard. The reasons why some helmets are not on the list may vary however, the [approved helmet list](#) web page is the definitive place to determine which helmets are authorized for use.

Each unit conducting aviation, both fire and resource missions, may impose additional, unique requirements and is encouraged to review and supplement ALSE requirements to be better meet mission needs and to mitigate risks. Choosing helmet models that meet the ALSE requirements should also



include other factors such as the ability to acquire repair parts, supplemental equipment, and other related product support in addition to access to trained personnel for repair and inspection.

Recent DOI and USFS mishaps continue to demonstrate the important role helmets play in protecting aircrews. Just as important, is the employee's responsibility to ensure that the helmet is good working order and serviceable before flight. All ALSE equipment should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to be sure it is ready to perform when needed.

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