



National Wildfire Coordinating Group National Interagency Aviation Committee

USFS Proposal:

T3 - Light Helicopter: A helicopter with a certified internal gross weight of less than 7,000 pounds. Under the ICS helicopter typing system, a light helicopter is a Type 3 helicopter and has 2-6 passenger seats.

T2 - Medium Helicopter: A helicopter with a certified internal gross weight between 7,001 and 14,000 pounds. Under the ICS helicopter typing system, a medium helicopter is a Type 2 helicopter and has 6-9 passenger seats (unless restricted category).

T1 - Heavy Helicopter: A helicopter with a certified internal gross weight of over 14,001 pounds. Under the ICS helicopter typing system, a heavy helicopter is a Type 1 helicopter and has 10 + passenger seats (unless restricted category).

Historical Information:

2018 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Redbook)
Chapter 16 Reference

ICS Type Specifications for Helicopters 17 Attributes	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Useful load at 59°F at sea level	5,000 pounds	2,500 pounds	1,200 pounds
Passenger seats	15 or more	9-14	4-8
Retardant or water carrying capability	700 gallons	300 gallons	100 gallons
Maximum gross takeoff/landing weight	12,501+ pounds	6,000-12,500 pounds	up to 6,000 pounds

2016 Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG)
Exhibit 6.1—ICS Type Specifications for Helicopters.

Attributes	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Useful at 59°F at sea level	5,000 pounds	2,500 pounds	1,200 pounds
Passenger Seats	15 or more	9-14	4-8
Retardant or water carrying capability	700 gallons	300 gallons	100 gallons
Maximum gross takeoff/landing weight	12,501+ pounds	6,000-12,500 pounds	Up to 6,000 pounds

2014 Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide (Fireline Handbook)
Chapter 4 Reference

Components	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Allowable payload at 59 °F at sea level	5,000	2,500	1,200
Passenger seats	15 or more	9–14	4–8
Retardant or water-carrying capability (gal)	700	300	100
Maximum gross takeoff and landing weight (lb)	12,501+	6,000–12,500	Up to 6,000
Examples	Bell 214	Bell 204, 205, 212	Bell 206

Components	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Helitanker	- Fixed tank - Certified by Air Tanker Board - 1,100 minimum gallon capacity		

1994 Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG)

Exhibit 6.1—Type Specifications for Helicopters

Chart 6-1: Type Specifications For Helicopters

TYPE	1	2	3
Allowable Payload @ 59° F. @ Sea Level	5000	2500	1200
Passenger Seats	11-16	6-10	2-5
Retardant or Water Carrying Capability (Gallons)	700	300	100
Maximum Gross Takeoff/Landing Weight (Lbs)	12,501 +	6,000-12,500	Up to 6000

1989 Fireline Handbook

Helicopters		16	10	5	3
	Seats, including pilot (minimum)	5000	2500	1200	600
	Card Weight Capacity (lbs)	700	300	100	75
	Tank, gallons of Retardant (min)				
	Examples	Bell 214	Bell 204, 205, 212	Bell 206	Bell 47

1985 Fireline Handbook

	RESOURCE	RADIO CALL	COMPONENTS	TYPES (MINIMUM STANDARDS)			
				1	2	3	4
	Air Tanker	Tanker Designator	Minimum Capacity	2000	1000	800	100
A I R C R A F T	Helicopters	Copter	Seats, including pilot (minimum)	16	10	5	3
			Card weight capacity	5000	2500	1200	600
			Tank; gallons of retardant (minimum)	700	300	100	75
			Example	Bell 214 Heavy	Bell 204, 205, 212 Medium	Bell 206 Light	Bell 47 Light
T	Helicopter Tender	Helitender #	Fuel and Support Equipment				
	Helitack Crew	Helitack	3-Crew Personnel				