



## National Wildfire Coordinating Group National Interagency Aviation Committee

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NIAC-19-03

**Date:** 27 February 2019  
**To:** NIAC Members  
**From:** Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee  
**Subject:** Helicopter Download Data Collection Procedure

**Introduction:** The National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) is implementing a test and evaluation of the current helicopter weight reduction process. This initial operational trial will assess any safety or operational impacts. Agencies will determine whether or not to participate, the number and type of programs that will participate, and manage any deviations from agency policy and/or contract specifications. Coordination will be made through NIAC, the Interagency Helicopter Screening and Evaluation Board (IHSES) and participating agency points of contract.

**Scope:** NIAC's goal is to assess a limited number of Type 2 and 3 helitack programs in support of wildland fire and land management. Aircraft of interest are AS-350s, B206s (including L models), B407s, B205s, and B212s. However, agencies are not limited to these particular aircraft.

Proposed Weight Reduction values:

- Type 3 – 100 lbs.
- Type 2 – 200 lbs.

### Procedure:

1. Preflight: Document two load calculations.
  - a. Perform a load calculation using the current weight reduction (from the current contract/procurement document) for the make and model helicopter.
  - b. Perform a load calculation using the new weight reduction. Use this load calculation for operations. Annotate **TEST** across the front of the load calculation, so everyone is aware it is a test.
2. Flight: During operations record the following on the Data form below: **actual** temperature, altitude, fuel and payload.
3. Post flight: Perform load calculations based on actual data and the new weight reduction. Annotate **ACTUAL**. These can be presented in summary form (*i.e., not necessary for a complete load calculation sheet for each actual condition. Use the attached data form*).
4. Send all following data regardless of agency to Bill Sloan ([William.sloan@usda.gov](mailto:William.sloan@usda.gov)), Jim Edge ([james.edge@usda.gov](mailto:james.edge@usda.gov)) and Don Campbell ([don.campbell@usda.gov](mailto:don.campbell@usda.gov)). BIA modules involved in the test should also send the following to Mike Amicarella ([john.amicarella@bia.gov](mailto:john.amicarella@bia.gov)). BLM modules involved in the test should send the following to Bryan Bitting ([bbitting@blm.gov](mailto:bbitting@blm.gov)).
  - a. Point of contact – crew manager with name, phone number and email.
  - b. Load calculation using current weight reduction.
  - c. Load calculation using new weight reduction.
  - d. Load calculation results for actual conditions (or attached data summary).
  - e. Any comments or observations would be helpful.
5. Data Collection Schedule: Please send data on a monthly basis or project basis. No need to repeat data that has already been sent.

**Schedule:** This assessment concludes 01 January 2020. Use of the new weight reduction is not authorized beyond this date unless otherwise advised.

**Questions:**

- For questions regarding procedures or data, please contact Bill Sloan at 208-258-0379 or Jim Edge 208-972-4391.
- For questions regarding permission to participate and/or deviation authorization please contact applicable agency management.

For questions of NIAC and/or IHSES please contact the appropriate committee member