



National Wildfire Coordinating Group  
**National Interagency Aviation Committee**

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NIAC-19-08

**Date:** 30 October 2019  
**To:** Dan Boyle, Chair, Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee  
**From:** Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee **JOEL  
KERLEY**  
**Subject:** Tasking –Evaluation of Helicopter Typing Standards

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KERLEY  
Date: 2019.10.30  
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**Purpose:** Review the current interagency and agency helicopter typing criteria and parameters for applicability to current interagency helicopter contracts, field use, dispatch system use and helicopter operations.

**Background:**

The basics of the current helicopter typing (IHOG and Red Book) originated in the late 1980s in the Fireline Handbook and in the first IHOG in 1994. These similar attributes and components have undergone very little change in thirty years.

Significant changes in helicopter performance and capability have occurred, which may need to be addressed in a review of the current typing. The current typing does not reflect accurate minimum specifications in some cases or the true capability of some makes and models of helicopters.

The Forest Service has recently experienced “cross-typing” on an exclusive use Type 2 solicitation, where a vendor proposed an S-61. It met the criteria for the existing type 2 components. Another vendor had been able to change the maximum gross weight of a B-214B or B1 depending on the order type and agency preference.

The K-Max, S-61 and BV-1071 helicopters cannot operate with a 700 gallon bucket in some fire environment situations.

**Issue/Action Requested:** Review and analyze the current helicopter typing. Update the examples list (attached) to current makes and models on contracts. Provide several recommendations for helicopter typing and include a no action alternative. The recommendations need to facilitate improved application for interagency guides, standards and contracts as well as helicopter operations.

Provide rationale for changes or updates to helicopter typing.

**Contact Information:** Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee,  
[joel.kerley@bia.gov](mailto:joel.kerley@bia.gov) or 208-387-5371.

Attachments: Helicopter Typing References

cc: National Interagency Aviation Committee members