

HELICOPTER INDEMNITIES



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Local authorities often provide helicopter Search and Rescue services, but members are able to contract on commercial terms for the carriage of ship's supplies, pilots and passengers.

Such contracts may contain onerous indemnities in favour of the helicopter operator and members should consult with the club managers for guidance where helicopter/ship operations are planned.

The contract either should not contain any indemnities or such indemnities should only be in respect of loss or damage arising out of the member's breach of law.

If the contract does include indemnities by the member in favour of the operator, then care should be taken to ensure that they are no more favourable to the helicopter operator than the old KLM Rotterdam contract. Under those terms, the helicopter operator agreed to be responsible for damage to or loss of the aircraft. It also agreed to be responsible for all third-party damage caused as a result of its operation, other than liabilities caused by the member's sole negligence or default. The helicopter operator can limit its liability to \$30m and the member agrees to indemnify it to the extent that claims exceed that amount.

Members should comply with the ICS *Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations*. Compliance with this practical guide does not guarantee club cover and members should seek the club's approval to the terms of any contract with a helicopter operator.

CRANE HAND SIGNAL POSTERS



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The club's recent edition of *Standard Safety* was a special edition focusing on personnel transfer using ship's cranes. The transfer of personnel at sea or offshore has been practised for a long time. In the past, it was usually done only in an emergency, but the practice has been carried out normally offshore from oil platforms and construction units. This has decreased with the onset of helicopter transfers, but it is still regularly practised in some areas.

To accompany the July 2010 issue of *Standard Safety*, we have produced a poster on crane hand signals.

Copies of the poster can be viewed on the club's website: www.standard-club.com

If you would like copies of the posters, please email me: chris.spencer@ctcplc.com

