



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Directing Aircraft from Surface Vessel Operations

Law, Military Science and Security / Sovereignty of the State

Unit Standard 259577 · NQF Level 5 · 20 Credits · 17 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the competence to direct and control aircraft operations from a surface vessel, ensuring safe and efficient launch and recovery procedures. It covers communication protocols, safety regulations, and emergency response tailored to maritime aviation environments. Successful learners will be able to coordinate aircraft movements in compliance with international maritime and aviation standards.

Category	Law, Military Science and Security
Subfield	Sovereignty of the State
Unit Standard	259577
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 20 Credits
Duration	17 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply standard communication procedures to direct aircraft during launch and recovery operations from a surface vessel.
- Analyze environmental conditions and vessel dynamics to determine safe operating parameters for aircraft movements.
- Evaluate emergency scenarios and implement appropriate response actions to mitigate risks during aircraft operations.
- Demonstrate correct use of visual and electronic signaling equipment for aircraft control on deck.
- Coordinate with bridge and flight deck teams to ensure seamless integration of aircraft and vessel operations.
- Comply with relevant South African and international regulations governing surface vessel aircraft operations.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is designed for deck officers, aviation operations personnel, and maritime safety supervisors responsible for directing aircraft from surface vessels such as naval ships or offshore platforms.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Aircraft Directing from Surface Vessels

- Overview of vessel-based aviation operations
- Roles and responsibilities of the aircraft director
- Safety management systems in maritime aviation
- Basic aeronautical knowledge for shipboard operations
- Introduction to standard hand signals

Day 2: Vessel Characteristics and Flight Deck Layout

- Types of surface vessels used in aviation
- Flight deck geometry, markings, and lighting
- Vessel motion: pitch, roll, yaw, heave
- Deck edge and obstructions
- Visual landing aids and reference points

Day 3: Communication Procedures and Terminology

- Radiotelephony procedures for vessel-aircraft communication
- Standard hand signals for marshalling
- Intercom and deck crew coordination
- Emergency communication protocols
- Phonetic alphabet and call signs

Day 4: Aircraft Types and Performance Factors

- Helicopter types: single-engine, twin-engine, maritime variants
- Fixed-wing aircraft capable of STOL/VTOL
- Weight and balance considerations
- Environmental factors: wind, sea state, density altitude
- Performance charts for shipboard operations

Day 5: Wind and Deck Motion Effects

- Wind flow over the deck: turbulence and rotor wash
- Deck motion limits for helicopter operations
- Use of windsocks and anemometers
- Relative wind and approach angles
- Motion compensation techniques

Day 6: Pre-Operation Planning and Briefings

- Risk assessment for shipboard operations
- Flight deck preparation: securing loose items, firefighting equipment
- Crew briefings: roles, responsibilities, emergencies
- Coordination with vessel navigation
- Weather and sea state evaluation

Day 7: Marshalling Signals and Hand Gestures

- Standard marshalling signals: start, stop, move forward/backward
- Helicopter-specific signals: engage rotor, land, takeoff
- Night marshalling with illuminated wands
- Emergency hand signals

- Common errors and corrections

Day 8: Deck Operations: Landing and Takeoff Procedures

- Approach path and aiming point
- Landing clearance and deck status
- Touchdown and securing the aircraft
- Takeoff clearance and departure path
- Emergency procedures: wave-offs, rejected takeoffs

Day 9: Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) and Survival

- HUET theory: aircraft ditching, inversion
- Emergency breathing systems: rebreather, EBS
- Survival suits and life jackets
- Life raft deployment and boarding
- Post-escape survival techniques

Day 10: Firefighting and Emergency Response on Deck

- Aircraft fire types: fuel, electrical, engine
- Firefighting agents: foam, dry chemical, CO2
- Fire extinguisher operation and maintenance
- Fuel spill containment and cleanup
- Emergency response drills

Day 11: Night Operations and Low Visibility Procedures

- Night deck lighting configuration
- Night vision goggles: capabilities and limitations
- Low visibility procedures: radar, instrument approaches
- Enhanced visual aids: landing lights, helideck status lights
- Crew coordination in reduced visibility

Day 12: Air Traffic Control and Coordination with Vessel Navigation

- Bridge-deck communication protocols
- Vessel course and speed changes for flight ops
- Airspace classification and ATC services
- Flight planning and NOTAMs
- Coordination with search and rescue

Day 13: Human Factors and Crew Resource Management

- Human error models: SHELL, Swiss cheese
- Fatigue management and shift work
- Communication barriers and assertiveness
- Decision making under pressure
- CRM case studies in maritime aviation

Day 14: Regulatory Framework and Compliance

- South African Civil Aviation Authority regulations
- International Maritime Organization (IMO) codes
- SAQA unit standard 259577: outcomes and assessment
- Record keeping: logbooks, incident reports
- Audits and inspections

Day 15: Advanced Scenarios and Emergency Drills

- Engine failure on takeoff/landing
- Deck fire with casualties
- Simultaneous helicopter and fixed-wing operations
- Man overboard during flight ops
- After-action review and debrief

Day 16: Practical Assessment Preparation

- Recap of marshalling signals
- Deck preparation and communication
- Emergency procedures refresher
- Mock assessments and feedback
- Personal study time

Day 17: Final Assessment and Course Wrap-Up

- Written examination
- Practical assessment: marshalling, deck operations, emergency response
- One-on-one feedback sessions
- Certification process
- Career pathways and further training

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **20 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 56,500.00	R 56,500.00
1	In-House	R 73,400.00	R 73,400.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 84,700.00	R 84,700.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	02 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
12 Aug 2026	03 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
13 Aug 2026	04 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	07 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
17 Aug 2026	08 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China
18 Aug 2026	09 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 259577) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call +27 12 004 8389 or WhatsApp +27 65 077 6310 and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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