Course Objectives

- Develop an understanding of how helicopter performance limitations affect operations;
- Develop and understanding of safe helicopter external load operations;
- Develop your ability to identify threats and hazards associated with helicopter external load operations safety practices;
- Understand the various types of load lifting equipment and aircraft characteristics;
- Develop an understanding of how to design and construct external load operating areas;
- Gain practice in rigging external loads; and
- Gain practice in hooking and unhooking external loads.

Flight Safety Foundation

Flight Safety Foundation was formed in 1947 to pursue the continuous improvement of global aviation safety. The Foundation meets this objective through research, auditing, education, advocacy and publishing. As an independent, impartial and non-profit international membership organization, the Foundation is in a unique position to identify global safety issues, set priorities and serve as a catalyst to address the issues. The Foundation’s effectiveness in bridging cultural and political differences in the common cause of safety has earned worldwide respect. Today, membership includes more than 1,200 organizations and individuals in 150 countries. The Foundation is based in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, has a regional office in Melbourne, Australia and is affiliated with associate organizations in Japan, Russia, Southeast Europe, Taiwan, China and West Africa.

For more information visit:
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**Course Overview**

Helicopter External Load Operations are conducted in many industries in most countries across the globe. At present, there is little standardization of procedures, equipment or training. Recognizing the need, the Flight Safety Foundation has developed a new course entitled ‘Helicopter External Load Operations for Ground Personnel’. The course provides necessary standardization and has been developed to provide basic training for any personnel engaged in activities involving helicopter under-slung loads.

External loads carried by helicopters vary considerably across the respective industries. For example, timber and steel used for construction, antennas and oversize equipment such as air-conditioning units and remote site drilling equipment.

This two-day course includes both classroom and practical tuition in the use of equipment. Extensive use of 3-D animations, graphics and videos make the course vibrant and easy to understand. The course provides a recommended standard in the use of hand signals and color identification of key personnel engaged on site.

The course can also be tailored for all industry sectors that utilize helicopters in similar support roles including fire fighting, humanitarian support and flood and famine relief.

**Who Should Attend This Course**

The course will provide guidance on standardization of equipment, personnel and procedures used in the Helicopter External Load role and be ideally suited for the following personnel:

- Site managers and supervisors;
- Mining personnel;
- Drillers and ground support personnel including hook-up personnel;
- Aircrew, including Loadmasters; and
- Anyone involved in helicopter external load activities.

**Course Facilitator**

Geoff Roberts

The Foundation has engaged Geoff Roberts, principal of Arrius Pty Ltd (a specialized aviation safety training organization) as facilitator of the course. Geoff has extensive skills and experience in both fixed and rotary wing flying and instructing, flight safety programs, incident and accident investigation, aviation/airline management, regulatory affairs and resource sector aviation safety management and auditing.

“*The use of helicopters to carry external loads is a very important capability for the Resources industry, but does come with additional inherent safety risks. Rio Tinto has been very pleased to support the development of the new external loads training course and we consider this to be another important aspect of the BARS Program that aims to improve levels of safety for the aviation activities of our Industry.*”

Geoff Want
Group Advisor – Aviation Safety
Rio Tinto