

Appendix 5A – Review of Overseas / International Practices on Noise Assessment for Emergency Helicopter Operations during Evening and Night-time Periods

Overseas / international practices for emergency helicopter operations in countries / regions with urban setting similar to Hong Kong have been reviewed in the approved EIA report for “A Rooftop Helipad at the Proposed New Block of Queen Mary Hospital” (Register No. AEIAR-208/2017). The key review findings are extracted as follows whereas its validities have been checked.

Country / Region	Overseas / International Practices on Noise Assessment for Emergency Helicopter Operations during Evening and Night-time Periods	Validity
United State - California	<p>In California, hospital landing sites are required to have an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21000 et seq.) to provide full public disclosure of the environmental impacts of a proposed project.</p> <p>The California Aeronautics Act – Public Utilities Code (PUC 21662.4(a)) stated that the emergency aircraft flights (i.e. HEMS) for medical purposes by law enforcement, firefighting, military, or other persons who provide flights for medical purposes are exempt from local ordinances. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (PRC Section 21002), such projects should not be approved if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects.</p>	Valid
Australia	<p>The Victoria EPA's Noise Control Guidelines (EPA Publication 1254) stated that the operation of a helicopter landing area outside the hours between 7am and 10pm shall not be permitted except for emergency flights. According to Practice Note 75 of the Victoria EPA, no permit is required under any provision of the planning scheme to use land for a helicopter landing site that is used by a helicopter engaged in the provision of emergency service operations. This include hospital helicopter landing site. Nevertheless, best practice should be followed in developing and constructing a helipad according to “Guidelines for helicopter medical transport landing sites” of Department of Health & Human Services of the Victoria Government.</p>	Valid
Japan	<p>In Japan, the aircraft noise standards established by the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan are not applicable to emergency uses in dedicated airfields and heliports for Police, Fire Service and medical emergencies.</p>	Valid
Singapore	<p>According to the information provided by the National Environment Agency of Singapore Government, there is no noise requirement for helicopters operations for emergency medical services.</p>	Valid

It is noted that the above review findings are all valid. In short, there is no specific noise criterion applicable to helicopter operations during evening and night-time periods for the purposes such as medical emergencies, law enforcement, firefighting and military in the reviewed countries / regions.