

MODEL AERONAUTICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



MOBILE PHONES AT FLYING FIELDS POLICY

MOP045

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MOBILE PHONES AT FLYING FIELDS POLICY

1. PURPOSE

This Policy implements the recommendations of the M.A.A.A. Frequency Sub Committee and is accepted by the M.A.A.A. to minimise the risk of the use of mobile phones at model flying fields.

2. INTRODUCTION

The M.A.A.A. Frequency Sub Committee has confirmed that there are sufficiently well recorded instances of mobile phones affecting model radio control transmitters by corrupting the radiated signal, and also modifying the stored memory in computer radios, to make their unrestricted use at model flying sites an unacceptable risk. It is also understood that the close proximity signal strength from a mobile phone exceeds the designed Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI) specifications of at least one manufacturer and is identified by them as a significant risk.

3. DEFINITIONS

M.A.A.A. Model Aeronautical Association of Australia Inc.

4. POLICY

The M.A.A.A. strongly recommends that: -

- All mobile phones be banned at radio controlled model flying fields at the following locations and in any areas between them: -

The transmitter pound
The pit area
The flight line
- High power phones with an add-on amplifier are not used within 30 metres of operating aircraft.

5. GUIDANCE

With the widespread use of mobile phones and the benefits that they bring for general use, and also for emergencies, it is not the intention to unreasonably restrict their use at model flying sites.

It is anticipated that the layout of most flying fields will allow convenient areas to be available, such as public viewing areas or the car park, where mobile phones can be operated safely and in accordance with this Policy.

Consistent with the intent of this recommendation, a buffer zone should exist between where mobile phones are allowed and the location of any radios control transmitters in the transmitter pound or pit area. It is recommended that distance should be a minimum of 2 metres.

As each field layout is different, it is up to the local field management to decide how this policy should be actually, and clearly, implemented to ensure that it complies with these recommendations in a practical manner.

Mobile phones that are switched on radiate at regular intervals to maintain identification with the base station, not just when a call is in progress. Due to the difficulty in identifying whether a mobile phone is switched on or not, it is recommended that the ban apply to all mobile phones not just those that are switched on.