	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Highdra System</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Flight Checklist / Flight Logbook</h3>	Page:	1 of 4
		Author:	NM, FA
		Revision:	v2.8
		Date:	2025-11-17

Highdra System Flight Checklist

Before Leaving: In the Office

UAS Highdra ID				
Vehicle – Available.				
Technical log – Check all items are closed.				
Soft-, firmware and parameters – Changes and impact? Special configuration prepared?				
Location – Check consent of property owner.				
No-fly zones or other airspace limitations – Any close by? Which ones? Impact?				
NOTAMS – Any active? Which ones? Impact?				
Temperature – Check > -5 °C.				
Wind – Check wind speed < 6 m/s. Check gusts <12 m/s. Check direction.				
Precipitation – No precipitation.				

Before Leaving: UAS / Equipment

UAS – Serviced and packed. (Body, Arms, Lnd. Gear, RC)				
Battery packs – Charged.				
Payload – Operational				
Equipment/Toolbox FT – Checked for completeness and Operational				
ID card and personal equipment (e.g. gloves, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, chairs, water, license)				

Assembly of UAV


Body – Check for visual damage.				
Landing gear – Check for visual damage. Correctly installed. Firm fit.				
Arms and propellers – Check for visual damage.				
Arms – Confirm locking mechanism locked.				
Propellers – Unfolded and free to spin.				
Batteries – Check for visual damage. Confirm locked.				
MTOM – Check < 25 kg.				

Booting of UAV

RC transmitter – Both Antenna in Omni direction position. Power on. Read battery level.				
UAV – Power on. All batteries show a similar state of charge.				
Lights for controllability – Check colors.				
Data link – Data link established.				
Data link – Read signal strength.				
Batteries used ID– Read voltage.				
GPS connection – GPS fix established. ≥ 15 satellites needed. ≥ 20 satellites best.				
RTK GPS heading – Check green "RTK" displayed.				
RC – Check buttons - A / P, RTL and Safety kill switches.				
Sound output – Audible.				
AMC Safety Setup – Checked.				

On-Site Team Briefing

Airspace – Any other traffic? OPS nearby? Impact?				
Obstacles – Any present? Which ones? Turbulences?				
External sources of irritation – Any present? Which ones?				
Mission briefed – Changes and impact of soft- and firmware updates. Limitations.				
Mission briefed – Flight objective and procedure. Limitations.				
Mission briefed – Expected behaviors and safety procedures.				
Mission briefed – Max. altitude				
Pilot/Crew fitness – "I' M SAFE" (Illness. Medication. Stress. Alcohol. Fatigue. Emotion).				

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		Author:	NM, FA
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Arming the Drone

Confirm all personnel are at a safe distance from the UAV (a minimum safe distance of 15 meters).				
Arm the drone and check that all six propellers are rotating smoothly.				
Engage the kill switch to verify proper functionality (only required on the first flight).				
Disengage the kill switch and re-arm the drone.				
Ensure all propellers are turning and operating correctly.				

Pre-Takeoff Checks

Perform final visual inspection of UAV and surroundings.				
Confirm GPS lock and home point accuracy.				
Ensure all parameters on the RC display are green and no warnings are shown.				
Execute a smooth takeoff (in Position Mode) to an altitude of 5–8 meters (a minimum safe distance of 15 meters from personnel and the pilot).				
Monitor UAV stability and response during hover.				
Perform manual control checks (required on the first flight and as needed):				
• Cyclic forward/aft				
• Cyclic left/right				
• Collective pitch max/min				
• Heading left/right				
Observe UAV response and ensure no irregularities occur.				

Flight Execution

Once all checks are complete, proceed with the planned flight.				
Continuously monitor battery levels, signal strength, and telemetry data.				
Maintain situational awareness and adjust as needed for environmental factors.				
If any abnormalities arise, execute an emergency procedure and perform safety landing as required.				

Landing and Post-Flight Checks

Gradually descend and ensure a controlled, stable landing.				
Disarm the UAV and power down the motors and engage kill switch				
Inspect the UAV for any damage or overheating.				
Check battery levels and consumption.				
Secure and pack equipment properly for transport.				
Conduct a debriefing with the team to discuss observations and improvements.				

Upon Return

UAV – Inspected for damage, cleaned and stored away.				
Remote control – Charging.				
Battery packs – Charging.				
Power banks – Check voltage / percentage.				
Auterion Suite – Pilots, batteries and payloads assigned.				
Flight logbook – Up to date.?				
Technical/Maintenance logbook – Up to date.?				
Mission documentation – By whom?				
Signature and Date of Person Responsible				

Disclaimer: This Flight Checklist, Flight Logbook, and Technical/Maintenance Logbook have been developed to support field operations for pilots and maintenance personnel operating the Highdra drone system. These documents are intended to serve as practical tools to simplify and standardize flight and maintenance procedures in the field. Please note that the content provided herein is a Standard operating framework at Starcopter. Operators and organizations owning or renting Highdra system may develop and adapt their own documentation to suit specific operational, regulatory, or mission-specific requirements.

Important: These documents are provided as hard copies for convenience. Starcopter maintains official flight and maintenance records in a secure, digitalized system. In the event of discrepancies, the digital records shall be considered authoritative.

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