



## British Balloon and Airship Club

### Procedure and Code of Practice for Flying during the FMD outbreak

#### Records

- 1 Records must be kept of the passengers carried on any flight and must comprise name, address and a contact telephone number.
- 2 It is vital that an accurate record of your landing site is kept for each flight. This should be a six figure OS grid reference. It is suggested that a list of landing sites for the previous 30days is kept in the retrieve vehicle and copies made available for landowners if they request it. In the case of an outbreak of FMD in your flying area this information will be vital for DEFRA (MAFF). You should be able to pinpoint the exact field you landed in.
- 3 Flying **and** retrieve maps must be marked up with the temporary sensitive areas such as quarantine areas, dangerous contact areas and burial site.

#### Pre-flight protocol

- 1 You must ensure that your take-off site has not been contaminated with FMD.
- 2 Your retrieve equipment should be clean and free from mud or dirt from a previous retrieve. Baskets should be kept clean and any soil or dirt washed off.
- 3 You must ensure that no passengers have travelled from a 10km infected area or "at risk" area or have been in contact with cattle, pigs, sheep or goats in the last 28 days..
- 4 Passengers and Crew should walk over a disinfectant mat before entering the basket.
- 5 Followers should be discouraged. If anyone insists on following they must stay on the public road and park well away from the farm and the landing field and on no account enter the farmland.

#### Landing sites

- 1 A landing site should be planned which is within the area cleared for flying.
- 2 Landing fields should be ungrazed set aside or stubble fields. Grass fields that may be grazed or used as a source of fodder must be avoided. Wherever possible the access to the field should be directly from a public road.
- 3 Wherever possible land in schools, playing fields, parkland etc.
- 4 Intermediate landings on agricultural must be avoided.
- 5 If you find you have, for whatever reason, landed in an infected area you must comply strictly with the procedures laid down in the ADAS protocol.

### Post-flight actions

- 1 The retrieve crew must not drive onto any private land before contacting the landowner. Landowners should be contacted by telephone if possible or by one person with disinfected footwear walking to the farmhouse. Contact **must** be made with someone in authority before recovering the balloon.
- 2 The crew must comply with any **reasonable** precautions requested by the landowner before taking a vehicle on to the landing site.
- 3 Pack up and exit the land as soon as possible after permission has been given. Food and drink must not be consumed on farmland.
- 4 Full contact details should be left with the landowner and a note made of the exact landing position, date and time.
- 5 The retrieve equipment should be washed and disinfected before the next flight.



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### Recommended Procedure for Disinfection of hot-air balloon baskets

The following procedure is to be used for disinfecting hot-air balloon baskets

#### **Recommended disinfectant:-**

The recommended disinfectants are **Virkon S** and **Virkon E**.

The recommended dilution is **1:1300** (50g of powdered disinfectant in 65 litres of water.)

These Disinfectants are recognised by MAFF as being effective against FMD at this dilution.

Details of disinfectant suppliers can be obtained from the manufacturer's website ([www.antecint.co.uk](http://www.antecint.co.uk) - follow the foot & mouth information link) or from their Rapid Response Hotline: 0800 3168060

#### **Precautions:-**

IF THE BASKET HAS A SWAGED REPAIR OF THE BASKET WIRES AND THIS SWAGED JOINT IS WITHIN THE WICKERWORK OR FLOOR OF THE BASKET THEN THE BASKET MUST NOT BE DISINFECTED.

Do not attempt to disinfect fuel systems, fuel cylinders or burners. If any part of the burner, fuel system or cylinders becomes contaminated with disinfectant solution then rinse with plenty of fresh water as soon as possible (within 2 hours).

The disinfectant is corrosive to copper and brass. It is essential that the ferrules at the top of the flying wires are not contaminated with disinfectant. If they become contaminated rinse with plenty of fresh water as soon as possible (within 2 hours).

Avoid allowing disinfectant to run inside the aluminium "U-Tubes" of Cameron "Aristocrat" baskets. If contamination of the U-tube occurs rinse with plenty of fresh water as soon as possible (within 2 hours) and invert the basket to let the water drain out.

It may be advisable to treat leather cylinder straps with Nikwax, dubbin or a similar leather treatment prior to first use and disinfection in order to prolong their life in repeated wetting / drying cycles.

Flying with the basket and bottom hide wet may lead to faster wear of basket hide, leather trim and wickerwork. Use of these disinfectant products may cause bleaching or discoloration of fabric, leather and dyed wicker components.

Note:- The disinfectant works best if the surfaces to be disinfected are cleaned prior to disinfectant application.

#### **Procedure:-**

Remove the fuel cylinders, burner and any fuel manifolds and fuel hoses from the basket.

Insert the nylon poles into the sockets on the basket top and attach the free ends of the basket wires to the tops of the poles in order to keep the swaged end away from the disinfectant (use tape, rubber bands or similar) Spray the basket with disinfectant solution. Do not attempt to disinfect the basket wires above the top of the basket and keep the disinfectant away from the ends of aluminium U-tubes.

Allow a minimum of 30 minutes for the disinfectant solution to work, then rinse the basket with plenty of fresh water. Rinsing should be carried out within 4 hours of disinfecting.

Do not replace fuel cylinders or fuel system components into the basket until AFTER the basket has been rinsed.

Ends