SKYMATCH GROUP

Mining Helicopter Charter Checklist

Canada

Regulator: Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) · Reference currency: CAD
Operating environment: Northern Canada - cold-soak, icing, remote fuel caches, IFR winter ops.

Procurement checklist for helicopter charter supporting mining and exploration in Canada (Nunavut, NWT, Yukon, Ontario Ring of Fire, Quebec North). Aligned to BARS, ICMM CCM and Transport Canada CARs.

How to use: walk this checklist with any operator you shortlist. Every unchecked line is a negotiation point or a red flag. SkyMatch runs this same list on your behalf across our network and returns a single curated proposal.

BARS-ALIGNED OPERATOR QUALIFICATION

- ☐ Current BARS registration or equivalent third-party audit (Flight Safety Foundation, Wyvern, IS-BAO Stage II+).
- ☐ Operator's most recent BARS audit report (or gap analysis) provided under NDA.
- ☐ Air Operator Certificate (AOC) issued by the local Civil Aviation Authority - copy provided with issue and expiry dates.
- ☐ Aircraft on the AOC - tail-number-level list, not fleet brochure.
- ☐ Documented Safety Management System (SMS) with a nominated Accountable Manager and Safety Manager.
- ☐ Fatigue Risk Management System (FRMS) covering crew duty, rest and rotation.
- ☐ Flight Data Monitoring (FDM / HFDM) programme active on the specific tail(s) proposed.
- ☐ Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT) mitigations: HTAWS (Class A/B), radar altimeter callouts, stabilised approach criteria.

ICMM CRITICAL CONTROL MANAGEMENT (AVIATION)

- ☐ Aviation identified as a Material Unwanted Event (MUE) in the client's risk register with named Executive Sponsor.
- ☐ Critical controls defined and verified for: takeoff/landing, in-flight upset, CFIT, engine failure, wire strike, deck/pad ops.
- ☐ Pre-flight risk assessment (PFRA) template completed per leg, signed by PIC and site aviation coordinator.
- ☐ Weather minima escalation matrix: day/night, VFR/IFR, offshore/onshore, mountain/coastal - documented and briefed.
- ☐ Passenger safety briefing (HUET where offshore, jungle/desert survival brief where remote) - record retained.
- ☐ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) issued: constant-wear immersion suits offshore, hi-vis, hearing protection, survival kit.
- ☐ Emergency Response Plan (ERP) exercised in the last 12 months with local SAR, medevac and site incident controller.

MINING SITE OPERATIONS

- [ ] Approved helipad(s) at mine site: coordinates, elevation, dimensions, surface, obstacles, windsock, fire cover.
- [ ] Fuel plan: Jet A-1 quality (ASTM D1655) at intermediate stops, contamination testing, bowser vs drum protocol.
- [ ] Communications: HF/VHF coverage, satellite tracking (spidertracks / Skytrac), reporting cadence.
- [ ] Passenger control: manifest-locked boarding, no walk-ups, weight & balance signed by PIC before start.
- [ ] Dangerous goods: lithium batteries, explosives, samples - declared and packed per IATA DGR.
- [ ] Crew accommodation, rest facilities and site inductions completed before any operational flying.

CANADA-SPECIFIC ITEMS

- [ ] TCCA AOC under CAR 702/703 with the specific operation type (external load, hoist, HEMS) endorsed.
- [ ] Cold-weather ops kit: engine covers, heaters, cold-soak fuel management, survival kit per CAR 602.61.
- [ ] Ice-protection / anti-ice systems and FIKI certification where flying into forecast icing.
- [ ] NAV CANADA IFR planning, satellite comms and flight following for remote camps.
- [ ] Nunavut / NWT / Yukon land-use permits and Indigenous consultation notifications where required.
- [ ] Fuel-cache logistics: barrel-fuel filtration, sampling, water-check and chain-of-custody documentation.

CONTRACT-READY COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- [ ] Master Services Agreement (MSA) with charter terms, indemnities, subcontractor clauses and change-order process.
- [ ] Certificate of Insurance: Hull All Risks, Passenger Legal Liability (min. USD 50M / passenger seat where required), Third-Party Liability, War & AVN52 endorsements.
- [ ] Additional Insured / Waiver of Subrogation in favour of the client and any joint-venture partners.
- [ ] Fixed hourly / block-hour rate, positioning fees, standby, cancellation ladder and fuel escalation formula.
- [ ] Force majeure, weather cancellation and technical-cancellation clauses aligned to remote mining reality.
- [ ] Data & confidentiality: flight manifests, coordinates, and site data protected under NDA and export-control terms.
- [ ] Anti-Bribery / Anti-Corruption (ABAC), Modern Slavery and Sanctions compliance declarations.
- [ ] Local content / national participation commitments where required by host-country mining or aviation law.

SIGN-OFF

Client aviation lead

Name / date / signature

Operator accountable manager

Name / date / signature

This checklist is a procurement aid. It does not replace a formal airworthiness audit, SMS review, or the operator's regulatory obligations under the local Civil Aviation Authority.