

## RA 4253 – Loose Article Recovery ▶◀

### Rationale

Items that have been dropped, lost, become detached or unaccounted for in and around Air Systems and / or Air System components are classed as loose articles. The presence of loose articles may result in control restrictions and system malfunctions compromising Airworthiness. ▶ This RA ◀ requires that ▶ aviation engineering orders and / or local ◀ procedures<sup>1</sup>◀ are put in place to record and recover loose articles, and ensure that the release of an Air System from Maintenance following an unsuccessful loose article search takes place only once the associated Risk to Life is As Low As Reasonably Practicable and Tolerable.

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**4253(1): Loose Article Recovery**  
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### Regulation 4253(1)

#### Loose Article Recovery

4253(1) The Military Continuing Airworthiness Manager (Mil CAM)<sup>2</sup> shall ensure that ▶ aviation engineering ◀ orders and / or ▶ local ◀ procedures<sup>1</sup>◀ are promulgated for the recovery of loose articles.

### Acceptable Means of Compliance 4253(1)

#### Loose Article Recovery

1. The Mil CAM<sup>2</sup>◀ should ensure that ▶ aviation engineering ◀ orders and / or ▶ local ◀ procedures<sup>1</sup>◀ for the recovery of loose articles include reference to the process at Annex A and the following requirements:

- a. Guidance on the appropriate scope and conduct of search activity to maximize the probability of recovering a loose article.
- b. The requirements for consultation with the Military Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization (Mil CAMO) including when the extent of searches may Cause further detriment to Airworthiness.
- c. The requirement to manage confirmed or suspected loose articles as Faults<sup>3</sup> and record them in the Technical Log<sup>4</sup>.
- d. The requirement to notify other people and organizations, as applicable, who might be affected<sup>5</sup>.
- e. The requirements for a mandatory search after a loose article airborne check<sup>6</sup>, where utilized, before Certification of Air System Release.

### Guidance Material 4253(1)

#### Loose Article Recovery

2. This Regulation covers the management of two distinct scenarios and unless explicitly stated, 'loose article' refers to both:

- a. Scenario one – Loose Article. An item is confirmed or suspected as being lost, constituting a potential loose article, for which suitable searches must be conducted; or
- b. Scenario two – Found Article. An item is found and is suspected of originating from an Air System or an Air System component, for which integrity checks must be conducted to locate its origin.

<sup>1</sup> ▶ Refer to RA 4009 – Aviation Engineering Orders and Local Procedures. ◀

<sup>2</sup> Refer to RA 1011 – Military Continuing Airworthiness Manager Responsibilities.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to RA 4812(3): New Faults (MRP 145.A.50(c)).

<sup>4</sup> Refer to RA 4813 – Maintenance Records (MRP 145.A.55).

<sup>5</sup> Refer to RA 1410 – Occurrence Reporting and Management.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to RA 4051 – Airborne Checks.

**Guidance  
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3. Detailing the extent and conduct of searches are Maintenance activities; therefore, individuals must be assessed as Competent and appropriately authorized<sup>7</sup> to undertake such activities.
4. The recording of suspected loose articles and loose article recovery efforts will include the detail of searches and / or integrity checks and their outcomes.
5. If a loose article is not recovered after searches, the Certification of Air System Release must be undertaken<sup>8</sup>.

**Regulation  
4253(2)**

**Certification of Air System Release Following Unsuccessful Loose Article Search**

4253(2) The Mil CAM<sup>2</sup> **shall** ensure that ►aviation engineering◄ orders and / or ►local◄ procedures<sup>1</sup> are promulgated to manage the Certification of Air System Release<sup>9</sup> after unsuccessful loose article searches.

**Acceptable  
Means of  
Compliance  
4253(2)**

**Certification of Air System Release Following Unsuccessful Loose Article Search**

6. The Mil CAM<sup>2</sup> **should** ensure that ►aviation engineering◄ orders and / or ►local◄ procedures<sup>1</sup> include:
  - a. Requirements<sup>10</sup> for personnel authorized to Certify the Air System Release following an unsuccessful loose article search.
  - b. Requirement for, and the method of, Mil CAMO notification<sup>11</sup> where searches are unsuccessful.
  - c. The process by which personnel certifying the Air System Release for Flight<sup>12</sup> following an unsuccessful loose article search are assessed as Competent<sup>7</sup>.

**Guidance  
Material  
4253(2)**

**Certification of Air System Release Following Unsuccessful Loose Article Search**

7. The Certification of Air System Release<sup>9</sup> is the act of completing the final signatures ►/ electronic Authorization,◄ confirming the completion of the preceding Maintenance processes ►by suitably authorized personnel.◄
8. The management of loose articles on Military Registered Civil Owned Aircraft will take into account platform specific instructions accepted by the Type Airworthiness Authority in the Air Safety Strategy<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Refer to RA 4806(5): Personnel Competences and Authorization (MRP 145.A.30(e)).

<sup>8</sup> ►Refer to RA 4253(2): Certification of Air System Release Following Unsuccessful Loose Article Search.◄

<sup>9</sup> Refer to RA 4812(1): Certification of Air System Release (MRP 145.A.50(a)).

<sup>10</sup> Refer to RA 4812(5): Deferred and Incomplete Maintenance (MRP 145.A.50(e)).

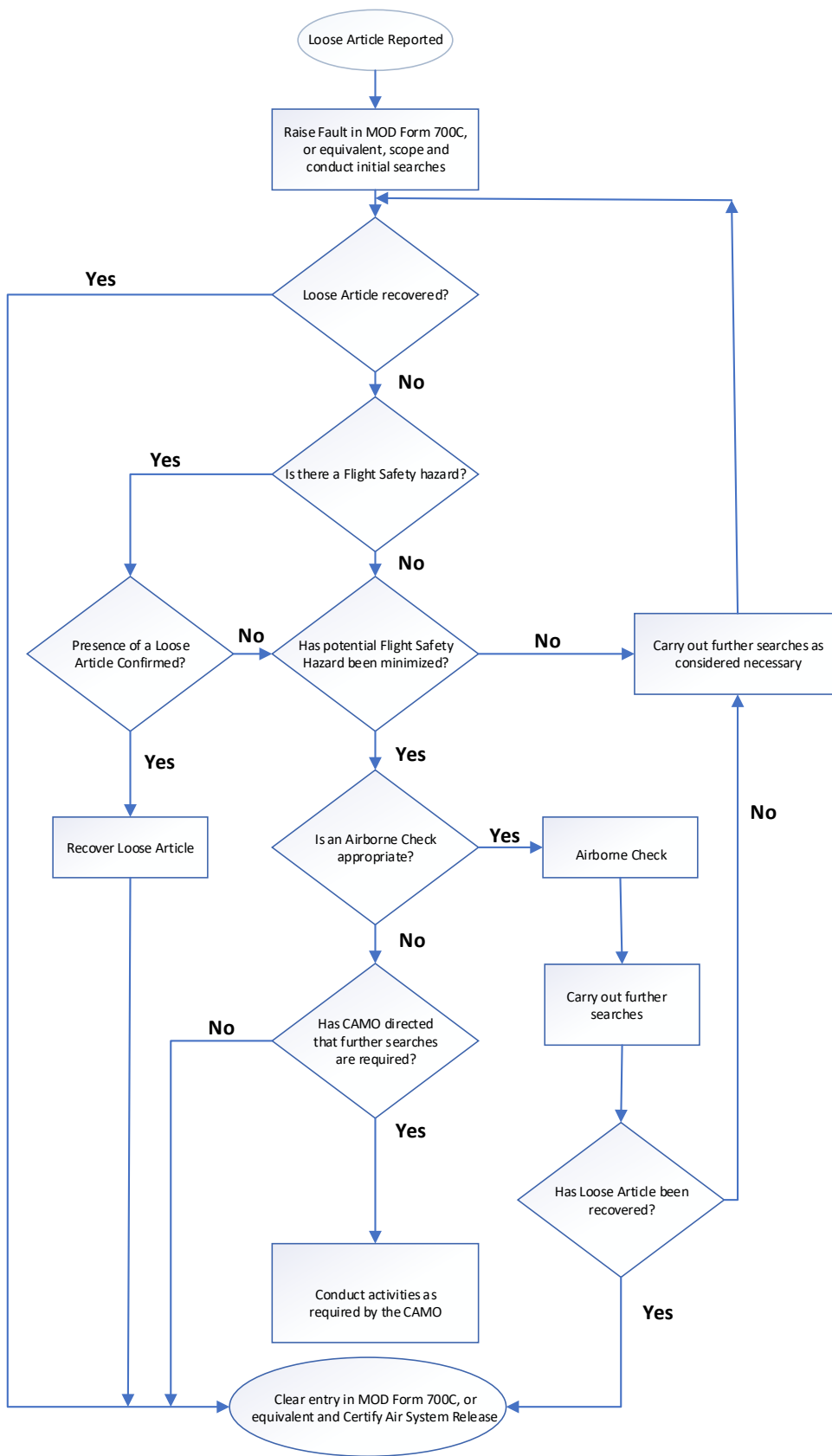
<sup>11</sup> Refer to RA 4947 – Continuing Airworthiness Management - MRP Part M Sub Part G.

<sup>12</sup> Refer to RA 4961(1): Aircraft Maintenance Programme.

<sup>13</sup> ►Refer to RA 1163 – Air Safety Governance Arrangements for Special Case Flying Air Systems.◄

ANNEX A

FLOWCHART FOR THE RECOVERY OF A LOOSE ARTICLE



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