

Exemption No. 10151

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106

In the matter of the petition of

**PARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE**

for an exemption from § 23.25  
of Title 14, Code of  
Federal Regulations

**Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2010-0932**

**GRANT OF EXEMPTION**

By letter dated September 14, 2010, Mr. William D. Holder, Search & Rescue Department, Park County Sheriff's Office, 1131 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Cody, WY 82414-3536, petitioned the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the Park County Sheriff's Office for an exemption from § 23.25 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR). The proposed exemption, if granted, would allow takeoff at weights up to 2200 pounds to carry two crew, full fuel and survival equipment for search and rescue operations.

**The petitioner requests relief from the following regulation[s]:**

Section 23.25 prescribes, in pertinent part, that the maximum weight is the highest weight at which compliance with each applicable requirement of this part (other than those complied with at the design landing weight) is shown.

**The petitioner supports its request with the following information:**

The petitioner states: "We currently operate an Aviat A1-B Husky aircraft used for search and rescue operations in the Park County area of Wyoming. In addition, this aircraft is also used to provide aerial guidance and support to ground crews, helicopter, and air ambulance helicopters during rescue operations.

"This aircraft is equipped with the optional 180 hp Lycoming O-360-A1P engine and has demonstrated the ability to operate above the current weight limit of 2000 lbs. in several different venues. The request to operate slightly above the weight limit of 2000 lbs. is a result of the necessity to carry a full load of fuel, survival gear, and 2 pilots (1

pilot in command and 1 observer). Much of the equipment we carry is survival gear, which is dropped to the ground to aid victims until help arrives. In addition, in order to utilize as much daylight as possible during an operation and keep the aircraft and its occupants safe, it is essential that we commence each mission with full fuel. Furthermore, reduced fuel equates into increased take-off and landing cycles, dramatically increasing the cost of each mission to the public. We have calculated the weight and balance in several configurations and have always been within the center of gravity envelope. As configured the aircraft always comes above the stated limit of 2000 lbs. to 2085 lbs.

“We are requesting an increased weight limit without modifications in order to comply with regulations and reduce financial implications to the Sheriff’s department. The requested 2200 lbs. would be our take-off weight and the aircraft would then return to standard weight limits within 1 hour of flight due to fuel consumption.

“Should you decide to grant the department this relief from the weight restriction of 2000 to 2200 lbs., I believe it would provide the public a more able search and rescue team and would benefit the department by allowing us to use the aircraft currently owned to its full potential.”

The FAA has determined that good cause exists for waiving the requirement for FEDERAL REGISTER publication because the exemption, if granted, would not set a precedent, and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to the Park County Sheriff’s Office.

**The FAA's analysis is as follows:**

The FAA finds that the structure, wheels, brakes and Airplane Flight Manual are acceptable for takeoff up to 2200 pounds for the Aviat A1-B used in search and rescue operations by the Park County Sheriff’s Office. The ability to carry full fuel will extend search and rescue time, which is in the public interest.

**The FAA’s Decision**

In consideration of the foregoing, I find that a grant of exemption is in the public interest. Therefore, pursuant to the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. §§ 40113 and 44701, delegated to me by the Administrator, the Park County Sheriff’s office is granted an exemption from 14 CFR § 23.25 to the extent necessary to allow the Park County Sheriff’s office to perform search and rescue operations subject to the conditions and limitations listed below.

**Conditions and Limitations**

1. Landings shall not be made at gross weights above 2000 pounds.
2. Takeoffs above 2000 pounds shall be limited to search and rescue operations.

This exemption terminates on replacement of the Aviat A1-B Husky by the Park County Sheriff's Office, unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri on September 30, 2010.



John Colomy  
Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate  
Aircraft Certification Service