
BHUTAN CIVIL AVIATION REQUIREMENTS



BCAR-47

Aircraft Nationality and Registration Marks

Issue 01, Revision 00

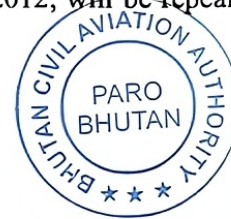
01 September 2026

Foreword

Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 52 and 53 of Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 has adopted this requirement. This requirement is based on the principles set out in Section 2 of Bhutan Air Navigation Regulation 2021 and as amended hereafter.

This requirement shall be cited as BCAR-47 Aircraft Nationality and Registration Marks and shall come into force on 01 September 2026.

Existing aviation requirements in the field of airworthiness as listed in BCAR-Aircraft Nationality and Registration Marks dated 01 October 2010 and the relevant clauses related to aircraft nationality and registration mark contained in BAR-AW dated 01 October 2012, ~~will be repealed~~ as from 01 September 2026.



Head of the Authority
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority
Paro Bhutan

List of Amendments

Amendment	Issue date	Remark
Issue 01 Revision 00	01 September 2026	- <i>Initial</i>

List of Effective Pages

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Section A - Technical Requirements

BCAR-47.01 Definitions

When the following terms are used in this BCAR, they have the following meanings:

- (a) **Aeroplane:** A power-driven heavier-than-air aircraft, deriving its lift in flight chiefly from aerodynamic reactions on surfaces which remain fixed under given conditions of flight;
- (b) **Aircraft:** Any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air other than the reactions of the air against the earth's surface. (See Table 1, Classification of aircraft);
- (c) **Airship:** A power-driven lighter-than-air aircraft;
- (d) **Balloon:** A non-power-driven lighter-than-air aircraft;
- (e) **Common mark:** A mark assigned by the International Civil Aviation Organization to the common mark registering authority registering aircraft of an international operating agency on other than a national basis;

Note. - All aircraft of an international operating agency which are registered on other than a national basis will bear the same common mark;

- (f) **Common mark registering authority:** The authority maintaining the non-national register or, where appropriate, the part thereof, in which aircraft of an international operating agency are registered;
- (g) **Fireproof material:** A material capable of withstanding heat as well as or better than steel when the dimensions in both cases are appropriate for the specific purpose;
- (h) **Glider:** A non-power-driven heavier-than-air aircraft, deriving its lift in flight chiefly from aerodynamic reactions on surfaces which remain fixed under given conditions of flight;
- (i) **Gyroplane:** A heavier-than-air aircraft supported in flight by the reactions of the air on one or more rotors which rotate freely on substantially vertical axes;
- (j) **Heavier-than-air aircraft:** Any aircraft deriving its lift in flight chiefly from aerodynamic forces;
- (k) **Helicopter:** A heavier-than-air aircraft supported in flight chiefly by the reactions of the air on one or more power-driven rotors on substantially vertical axes;
- (l) **International operating agency:** An agency of the kind contemplated in Article 77 of the Convention;
- (m) **Lighter-than-air aircraft:** Any aircraft supported chiefly by its buoyancy in the air;
- (n) **Ornithopter:** A heavier-than-air aircraft supported in flight chiefly by the reactions of the air on planes to which a flapping motion is imparted;
- (o) **Remotely piloted aircraft (RPA):** An unmanned aircraft which is piloted from a remote pilot station;
- (p) **Rotorcraft:** A power-driven heavier-than-air aircraft supported in flight by the reactions of the air on one or more rotors;
- (q) **State of Registry:** The State on whose register the aircraft is entered.

BCAR-47.03 Effectivity

This requirement shall enter into force on 01 September 2026.

BCAR-47.05 Scope

- (a) This BCAR specifies the requirements governing:
 - 1. The registration and deregistration of aircraft in the Bhutan;
 - 2. The allocation of nationality and registration marks for Bhutanese registered aircraft; and
 - 3. The display of nationality and registration marks on Bhutanese registered aircraft.
- (b) The requirement shall not apply to meteorological pilot balloons used exclusively for meteorological purposes or to unmanned free balloons without a payload.

BCAR-47.10 Nationality of aircraft

- (a) An aircraft registered under this requirement has Bhutanese nationality.
- (b) An aircraft registered in an ICAO contracting State has the nationality of that State.
- (c) An aircraft registered under a joint registration plan or an international registration plan, to the extent set out in the resolution on Nationality and Registration of Aircraft operated by International Operating Agencies adopted by the ICAO on 14th December 1966, shall be deemed to have the nationality of each of the contracting states that constitute the international operating agency by which the aircraft is operated.

BCAR-47.15 Aircraft to be registered

- (a) An aircraft shall not fly in Bhutan unless it is registered:
 - 1. In Bhutan;
 - 2. In a contracting state of ICAO; or
 - 3. In accordance with BCAR-47.10(c).
- (b) BCAA may where special cause exists exempt subject to such conditions as BCAA thinks fit an aircraft from the provisions of paragraph (a).
- (c) The provisions of the requirement apply to an aircraft which flies in Bhutan in violation of paragraph (a) as if the aircraft is registered in Bhutan.

BCAR-47.20 National Civil Aircraft Register

- (a) Each aircraft issued with a certificate of registration pursuant to the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016, or as amended hereafter, and under this requirement must be recorded in National Civil Aircraft Register which shall be kept updated and maintained by BCAA with the following particulars:
 - 1. The number of the certificate issued to it;
 - 2. The nationality mark of the aircraft and the registration mark assigned to it by BCAA;
 - 3. The name of the manufacturer of the aircraft and its designation;
 - 4. The serial number of the aircraft;
 - 5. The name and address of the owner; and
 - 6. If the aircraft is the subject of a lease agreement accepted by BCAA, the name and address of the lessor and lessee operator.
- (b) The register of unmanned free balloons shall contain the date, time and location of release, the type of balloon and the name of the operator.
- (c) When the aircraft first of its type is entered in the National Civil Aircraft Register, BCAA shall advise the state of design that it has entered such an aircraft to receive all continuing information relating to the aircraft.

BCAR-47.25 Classification of Aircraft

- (a) Aircraft shall be classified in accordance with table given in Appendix I.
- (b) An aircraft which is intended to be operated with no pilot on board shall be further classified as unmanned.
- (c) Unmanned aircraft shall include unmanned free balloons and remotely piloted aircraft.

BCAR-47.30 Aircraft not to be registered

An aircraft shall not be registered or continue to be registered in Bhutan if it appears to BCAA that:

- (a) It is registered outside of Bhutan under the law/regulation of any foreign country;
- (b) An unqualified person owns or has a share in the aircraft;
- (c) It would not be in the public interest for the aircraft to be or continue to be registered in Bhutan;
- (d) The aircraft is deemed as State Aircraft in accordance with the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 or as amended hereafter;
- (e) The aircraft exceeds the maximum permissible usage or age limit of an aircraft specified in policy issued by the Ministry; or
- (f) The aircraft has not been issued with a Bhutanese Type Acceptance Certificate in accordance with BCAR-21.

BCAR-47.35 Registration Eligibility

- (a) The following persons shall be qualified to hold a legal interest by way of ownership, or a share, in an aircraft in Bhutan:
 - 1. The Royal Government of Bhutan;
 - 2. Citizens of Bhutan; or
 - 3. Companies incorporated in Bhutan.
- (b) If an aircraft is leased to a qualified person, BCAA may (whether or not an unqualified person is the owner of the aircraft), register the aircraft in the name of the lessee if BCAA is satisfied that the continuing airworthiness requirements of the aircraft are ensured under the terms and conditions of the lease agreement.

BCAR-47.40 Application for registration

Application for registration shall be made in writing to BCAA in form AIR-11.

BCAR-47.45 Certificate of registration

- (a) Upon registering an aircraft, BCAA shall furnish the registered owner with a certificate of registration. The certificate of registration, in wording and arrangement, shall be a replica of the certificate shown in Appendix III.
- (b) The registration of an aircraft and its entry in the Civil Aircraft Register does not confer or imply ownership of the aircraft. A certificate of registration for an aircraft is not conclusive evidence of the existence of a legal or beneficial property interest in the aircraft.

BCAR-47.50 Change in condition, ownership or status of registered aircraft

- (a) Any person who is the registered owner of an aircraft under this requirement shall immediately inform BCAA in writing of:
 - 1. Any change in the particulars furnished to BCAA when application was made for registration;
 - 2. The destruction of the aircraft or its permanent withdrawal from use; or
 - 3. In the case of an aircraft registered in pursuance to BCAR-47.35(b), the termination of the lease.
- (b) Any person who becomes the owner of an aircraft registered under this requirement shall within 14 days inform BCAA in writing of this.
- (c) Subject to BCAR-47.35(b), if at any time after an aircraft is registered under this requirement an unqualified person becomes owner of an aircraft or a share therein, the registration shall become void and the certificate of registration shall be returned by the registered owner to BCAA.
- (d) When an aircraft is transferred from one person to another, the new owner of the aircraft shall apply for change in registration in accordance with BCAR-47.40.

BCAR-47.55 Amendment of the register

- (a) BCAA may, when it considers it necessary for the purposes of this requirement to do so, amend the register or cancel the registration of any aircraft.
- (b) Any person who wishes to record an irrevocable de-registration and export request authorization (IDERA) against a registered aircraft shall make an application on form AIR-25.

BCAR-47.60 Nationality and registration marks

- (a) An aircraft (other than one permitted by or under these requirements to fly without being registered) shall not fly unless it bears painted on or permanently affixed in the manner required by the law/regulation of the country in which it is registered, the nationality and registration marks required by that law/regulation.
- (b) The nationality mark of Bhutan shall be ‘A5’, so styled, and the registration marks shall comprise three capital letters in roman characters assigned to the aircraft by BCAA. The letters shall be without ornamentation and a hyphen shall be placed between the nationality and registration marks.
- (c) When letters are issued for the registration mark, combinations shall not be used which might be confused with:
 - 1. The five-letter combinations used in the international code of signals, Part II;
 - 2. The three-letter combinations beginning with Q used in the Q code; or
 - 3. The distress signal SOS, or other similar urgent signals, for example XXX, PAN, and TTT.
- (d) A registration mark that has been used previously will not be reused for a period of 3-year from the date of deregistration to avoid confusion.
- (e) The location, measurement, and type of characters of the nationality and registration marks shall be in accordance with Appendix II.
- (f) Nationality and registration marks of an aircraft shall always be kept clean and visible.
- (g) An aircraft shall not bear any marks which purport to indicate:
 - 1. That aircraft is registered in a country in which it is not in fact registered, or;
 - 2. That the aircraft is a state aircraft of a particular if it is not in fact such an aircraft, unless the appropriate authority of that country has sanctioned the bearing of such marks.

BCAR-47.65 Reservation of Registration Mark and Mode S 24-bit address

- (a) Application for reservation of registration mark and Mode S 24-bit address shall be made in writing to BCAA.
- (b) The BCAA shall reserve aircraft registration mark and Mode S 24-bit address for a period of 6 months upon being satisfied that application for such reservation meets all BCAA requirements.
- (c) The reserved registration mark and Mode S 24-bit address cannot be used unless the aircraft is registered in National Civil Aircraft Register of Bhutan being granted with a Certificate of Registration.
- (d) A Mode S 24-bit address cannot be reserved for an aircraft unless the registration mark is already reserved for that aircraft.
- (e) The Mode S 24-bit address is cancelled if:
 - a. The six months’ reservation period expires without being used; or
 - b. The aircraft is removed from the National Civil Aircraft Register.

BCAR-47.70 Identification plate

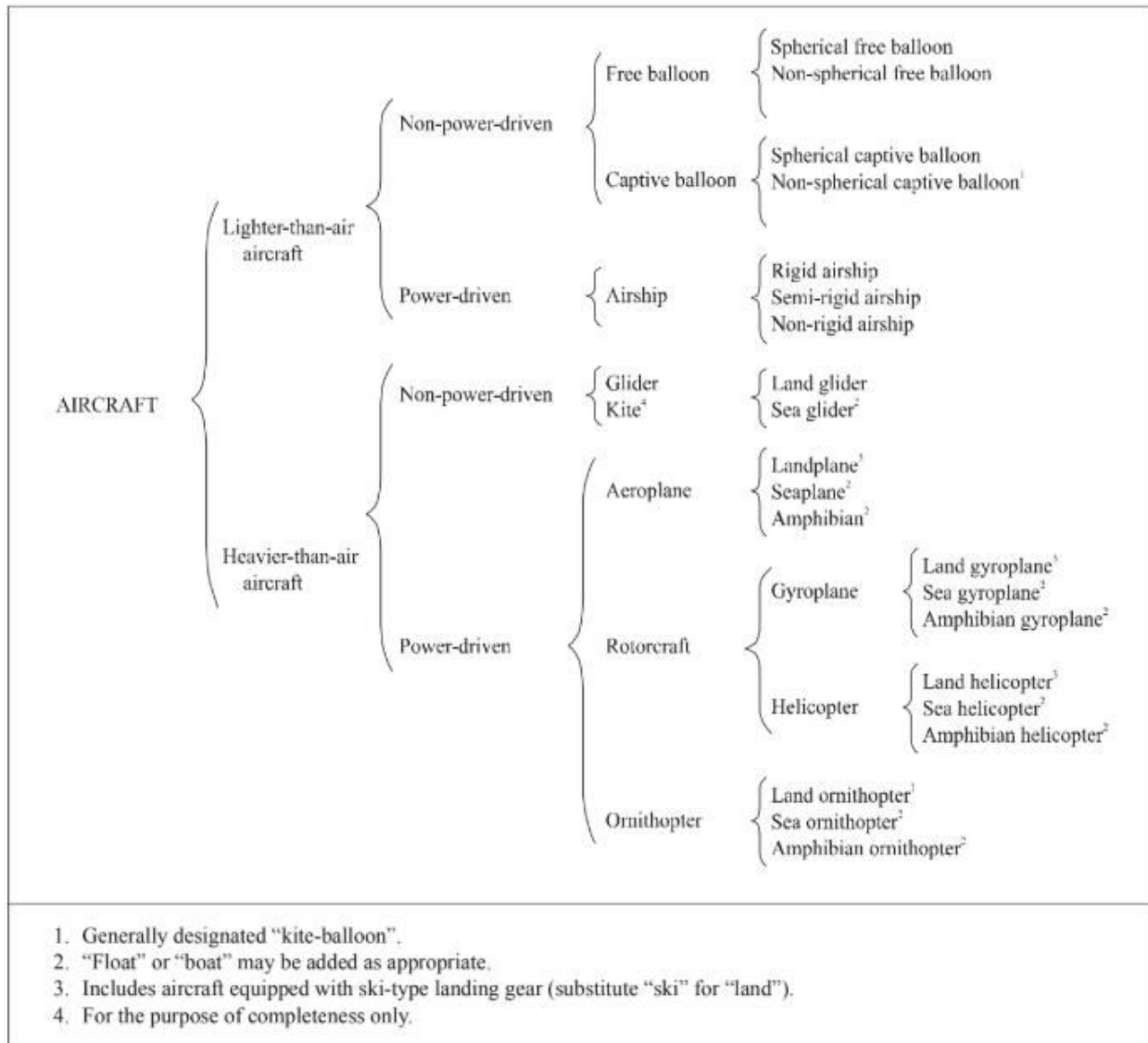
- (a) An aircraft shall carry an identification plate inscribed with the following information:
1. The nationality and registration mark;
 2. Name and address of the registered owner;
 3. Aircraft manufacturer's name;
 4. Aircraft model;
 5. Aircraft serial number;
 6. Type certificate number (if any); and
 7. Production certificate number (if any).
- (b) The plate shall be made of fireproof metal or other fireproof material of suitable physical properties and shall be secured to the aircraft in a prominent position near the main entrance or, in the case of an unmanned free balloon, affixed conspicuously to the exterior of the payload.
- (c) In case of a remotely piloted aircraft, the identification plate shall be secured in a prominent position near the main entrance or compartment or affixed conspicuously by the exterior of the aircraft if there is no main entrance or compartment.

BCAR-47.75 Deregistration

- (a) An aircraft remains registered until:
 - 1. The holder of a certificate of registration requests the BCAA to revoke the certificate for the aircraft; or
 - 2. The BCAA is satisfied that:
 - a. The aircraft is destroyed, lost, or stolen;
 - b. The aircraft is permanently withdrawn from use;
 - c. A person lawfully entitled to possession of the aircraft has applied to register the aircraft in another country; or
 - d. The aircraft is registered in a country other than Bhutan.
- (b) Despite paragraph (a)(1), the holder of a certificate of registration may not request the BCAA to revoke the certificate of registration for the aircraft if the authority has recorded an IDERA pursuant to 47.55(b).
- (c) The BCAA may cancel the registration of an aircraft subject to an IDERA only in pursuance of an application made by a person who is recorded as the authorised party under the IDERA in respect of the aircraft.
- (d) In paragraph (a), the holder of the invalid certificate of registration shall return the original certificate to BCAA as soon as possible.
- (e) The holder of the certificate of registration shall submit the following for deregistration:
 - a. An application for issue of certificate of deregistration in form AIR-27.
 - b. Confirmation of the removal of the following:
 - i. Aircraft identification plate; and
 - ii. All Bhutanese Nationality and Registration Markings.
 - c. Confirmation of reprogramming the following:
 - i. Emergency locator transmitter (ELT) 15 Hexadecimal (Hex ID); and
 - ii. Mode S 24-bit address (6-Hexadecimal Code).
- (f) The certificate of deregistration, in wording and arrangement, shall be a replica of the certificate in Appendix IV.

Appendices to the Requirement

Appendix I Classification of Aircraft



Appendix II Nationality and registration marks

1. Location of nationality and registration marks

3.1 Lighter-than-air Aircraft

- 1.1.1 Airships: The marks on airships shall appear either in the hull or on the stabilizer surfaces. Where the marks appear on the hull, they shall be located lengthwise on each side of the hull and also on its upper surface on the line of symmetry. Where the marks appear on the stabilizer surface, they shall appear on the horizontal and on the vertical stabilizer; the marks on the horizontal stabilizer shall be located on the right half of the upper surface and on the left half of the lower surface, with the tops of the letters and numbers toward the leading edge; the marks on the vertical stabilizer shall be located on each side of the bottom half stabilizer, with the letters and numbers placed horizontally.
- 1.1.2 Spherical balloons (other than unmanned free balloons): The marks shall appear in two places diametrically opposite. They shall be located near the maximum horizontal circumference of the balloon.
- 1.1.3 Non-spherical balloons (other than unmanned free balloons): The marks shall appear on each side. They shall be located near the maximum cross-section of the balloon immediately above either the rigging band or the points of attachment of the basket suspension cables.
- 1.1.4 Lighter than air Aircraft (other than unmanned free balloons): The side marks shall be visible both from the sides and from the ground.
- 1.1.5 Unmanned free balloons: The marks shall appear on the identification plates affixed conspicuously to the exterior of the payload.

3.2 Heavier-than-air aircraft

- 1.2.1 Wings: On heavier-than-air aircraft, the marks shall appear once on the lower surface of the wing structure. They shall be located on the left half of the lower surface of the wing structure unless they extend across the whole of the lower surface of the wing structure. So far as is possible, the marks shall be located equidistant from the leading and trailing edges of the wings. The tops of the letters and numbers shall be toward the leading edge of the wing.
- 1.2.2 Fuselage (or equivalent structure) and vertical tail surfaces: On heavier-than-air aircraft, the marks shall appear either on each side of the fuselage (or equivalent structure) between the wings and the tail surface or on the upper halves of the vertical tail surfaces. When located on a single vertical tail surface, they shall appear on both sides. When located on multivertical tail surfaces, they shall appear on the outboard sides of the outer surfaces.
- 1.2.3 Special cases: If a heavier-than-air aircraft does not possess parts corresponding to those mentioned in 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, the marks shall appear in a manner such that the aircraft can be identified readily.

2. Measurements of nationality and registration marks

The letters and numbers in each separate group of marks shall be of equal height.

2.1 Lighter-than-air aircraft

- 2.1.1 The height of the marks on lighter-than-air aircraft other than unmanned free balloons shall be at least 50 centimetres.
- 2.1.2 The measurements of the marks related to unmanned free balloons shall be determined by BCAA, taking into account the size of the payload to which the identification plate is affixed.
- 2.1.3 Special Cases. If a lighter-than-air aircraft does not possess parts of sufficient size to accommodate the marks described in 2.1.1, the measurements of the marks shall be determined by the BCAA, taking account of the need for the aircraft to be identified readily.

2.2 Heavier-than-air aircraft

- 2.2.1 Wings: The height of the marks on the wings of heavier-than-air aircraft shall be at least 50 centimetres.
- 2.2.2 Fuselage (or equivalent structure) and vertical tail surfaces. The height of the marks on the fuselage (or equivalent structure) and on the vertical tail surfaces of heavier-than-air aircraft shall be at least 30 centimetres. The mark on the fuselage shall not interfere with the visible outline of the fuselage (or equivalent structure). The marks on the vertical tail surfaces shall be such as to leave a margin of at least 5 centimetres along each side of the vertical tail surface.
- 2.2.3 Special cases. If a heavier-than-air aircraft does not possess parts corresponding to those mentioned in 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, the measurements of the marks shall be determined by the BCAA, taking account of the need for the aircraft to be identified readily.

3. Type of characters for the nationality and registration marks

- 3.1 The letters shall be capital letters in Roman characters without ornamentation. Numbers shall be Arabic numbers without ornamentation.
- 3.2 The width of each character (except the letter I and the number 1) and the length of hyphens shall be two-thirds of the height of a character.
- 3.3 The characters and hyphens shall be formed by solid lines and shall be of a colour contrasting clearly with the background. The thickness of the lines shall be one-sixth of the height of a character.
- 3.4 Each character shall be separated from that which it immediately precedes or follows, by a space of not less than one-quarter of a character width. A hyphen shall be regarded as a character for this purpose.

Appendix III Sample Certificate of Registration

 འབྲུག་གི་མཐའ་འཁུལ་དབང་འཛིན། དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority Royal Government Of Bhutan Paro : Bhutan			
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION		Certificate No.:	
1. Nationality and registration marks	2. Manufacturer and manufacturer's designation of aircraft	3. Aircraft serial no.	3b. Mode-S transponder code
4a. Issued to (name of certificate holder)			
Basis for registration (check one): ☐ Ownership of aircraft ☐ Operator of aircraft ☐ Other (explain):			
4b. Address of certificate holder:			
5. Name and contact information of owner, if different from certificate holder:			
6. It is hereby certified that the above described aircraft has been duly entered on the Bhutanese Civil Aircraft Register in accordance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 07 December 1944 and with the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 and the Bhutan Air Navigation Regulations 2021.			
Date of Initial Issue:			
Date of Revision:		Signature:	
Note(s): * This certificate is not a proof of ownership of this aircraft. * The registration holder must notify Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority in writing about the change to the particulars recorded on this certificate. * All Certificates of Registration previously issued in respect of this aircraft are hereby suspended and cancelled.			

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Appendix IV Sample Certificate of Deregistration

 འབྲུག་གི་བདེ་མཁའ་འགྲུལ་དབང་འཛིན། དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority Royal Government Of Bhutan Paro : Bhutan 			
CERTIFICATE OF DEREGISTRATION			Certificate No.:
1. Nationality and registration marks	2. Manufacturer and manufacturer's designation of aircraft	3. Aircraft serial no.	3b. Mode-S transponder code
4a. Issued to: (name of certificate holder) Basis of registration (check one): ☐ Ownership of aircraft ☐ Operator of aircraft ☐ Other (explain): 4b. Address of Certificate Holder: (at the time of deregistration) 5. Name and contact information of the owner, if different from the certificate holder: (at the time of deregistration)			
6. It is hereby certified that the above described aircraft has been duly removed from the Bhutan Civil Aircraft Register on and the Certificate of Registration has been cancelled in accordance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 07 December 1944, the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 and the Bhutan Air Navigation Regulations 2021. 6a. Reason(s) for the deregistration, if known:.....			
Date of Initial Issue: Date of Revision: Signature:			
Note(s): * This certificate is not a proof of ownership of this aircraft.			

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