

# O-VRAT help text

## What is it all about?

The AECO Off-Vessel Risk Assessment Tool is a non-mandatory tool to help expedition leaders or others to perform and log risk assessments for landing operations<sup>1</sup>. Risk assessments may be more or less structured and done by conducting observations based on experience, standard operations procedures, etc. This is often not calculated nor methodical although it may add up to a full risk assessment if actions and considerations carried out prior to landing operations would be collated into writing and presented as such. The present legislative environment is pushing towards ensuring that risk assessments are carried out and that documentation exist to that end. This relates to both environmental and safety related considerations. In the O-VRAT tool app, a comprehensive list of environmental and safety topics is covered and offer a way to perform and log risk assessments before any landing to serve this purpose.

The O-VRAT app is built on all sites that exist in the AECO Cruise database<sup>2</sup>. An additional feature of the app is that guidelines or restrictive information deemed particularly relevant to individual sites will feature when accessing that site. While the AECO guidelines overall are always valid, some sites have special features that need extra attention. This could be Site Specific Guidelines, access restrictions to a given site for certain dates/full access prohibitions, specific Community Guidelines, or sites know for cultural heritage that will feature Cultural Remains Guidelines. The aim is to be as comprehensive as possible and any recommendations to link certain guidelines or relevant information concerning restrictions of any kind is welcome. Please contact [aeco@aeco.no](mailto:aeco@aeco.no).

The O-VRAT is a tool that, depending on your individual answers, suggest mitigation methods. Only on very rare occasions will it suggest a complete cancellation of the landing. Hence it is a tool to help the user prepare in the best possible way, but it is not a tool that will make the decisions to go out or not. This decision is still firmly in the hand of the responsible part of the ship's management team. Instead, it enables you to document that a thorough risk assessment has been carried out and remind you about mitigation methods for situations that need extra consideration.

## Getting started

The O-VRAT app is freely available for download for iOS and Android in the iTunes App store and Google Play. However, to access the functionalities of the app, a username and password is required. The app is only available to field staff and other staff working for AECO member companies. Registration is done via your employer. Your employer will send a list of employees to AECO who will then register individuals to access the app.

As the name implies, the app is working as an offline app. Once downloaded, the relevant regions that will be visited also needs to be downloaded to the mobile device. This will ensure that all sites that may be visited are readily available offline. All guidelines and restrictive information must also be downloaded in advance if one wants to make use of this feature. It is recommended to do this

---

<sup>1</sup> Currently only for landing operations but this may be expanded to include other activities at a later stage.

<sup>2</sup> Updates will be made on a continuous basis throughout the season and become functional once a sync with the server has been made.

while Wi-Fi coverage is fast and free. Please use go to “Profile” to download relevant the information from the relevant regions, and guidelines that you need. Synchronize with the server often.

## **Making a new risk assessment**

Risk assessments are currently possible for separate landings only. This mean one landing – one risk assessment. Ensure that only one risk assessment per landing per ship is made. Conflicting risk assessments for a single landing could become problematic in case of incidents.

The easiest way to start your assessment is directly from the map. Select the site by pressing the site marker. To start the assessment, press the target icon immediately to the right of the site name (not the target icon in the lowest part of your screen).

You can also start your assessment by a direct search on the site name by using the target icon located at the bottom of the screen. Press the site box and a search box appears.

The assessment consists of three different sections. Depending on your answer, mitigations methods may appear. Very few cases have a direct no go advise. Use the O-VRAT as a tool to help in decision making and remember that it is not making decisions for you.

Once the assessment is completed press save. The assessment is now stored locally on your device. When Wi-Fi reach please ensure to synchronize with the server via the profile menu to upload the assessments to the cloud.

## **Why does it not synchronize properly?**

It is recommended to close the app completely and re-boot it every now and then. Some information may not synchronize entirely if the app is not closed, rebooted, and then synchronized.

In case you need to change/add company to your profile it is a little currently more complicated. For IOS users it is sufficient to deinstall the app and re-install it again. Remember to download all relevant regions and guidelines again.

For Android users, please go through the following steps:

1. Open phone Settings
2. Go to Apps (or equivalent menu)
3. Find AECO O-VRAT
4. Open go to Storage
5. Select Clear data

-> next time you open the App it will download all data again from the server and you will start off with a fresh copy and settings

If you are having technical difficulties or need help resetting your password, please consult the FAQ: <https://www.aeco.no/ovrat-faq/> and/or the O-VRAT user manual ..[link](#)

Updated: 23-02-2021