



2026

RC Balloon Operations Manual
Rules & Regulations



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Section 1

Remote Controlled (RC) Model Balloon Operations Manual

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This Operations Manual is intended to establish the operating rules for the Operators and crews participating in the 4th Fiesta de Los Globitos Remote Control Balloon Rally (Event(s)). This Event is being held during the 54th ExxonMobil Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta™ (Balloon Fiesta), October 3-11, 2026, at Balloon Fiesta Park. The Event organizer, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Inc. (AIBF) coordinates field preparation and activities, appoints the Globitos Balloonmeister and other key officials, and approves the information supplied to the participants, including this Operations Manual.

I. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

A. DUTIES OF AIBF PERSONNEL:

1. **Event Director (Jennifer Garcia):** Is in overall operational charge of the AIBF flight operations and is responsible for effective management, efficient and safe running of all flying Events. The Event Director coordinates all flight activities; coordinates with the FAA concerning flight activity during the Event; works directly with AIBF's Executive Director and President to determine any need for cancellation; and prepares the application for Waiver, rules, and Pilot information for approval by the AIBF Board of Directors and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
2. **Pilot Administrator (Sarah Stultz):** Assists the Event Director in all areas related to the effective management of all flying events and Glows and is responsible for the Pilot Headquarters, providing management of all Pilot/Crew social functions. Coordinates registration and Pilot documentation plus FAA review. Organizes Pilot rosters for Albuquerque Aloft, Government, Media and VIP flights, and coordinates Pilot hotel rooms and Pilot packs.
3. **Balloonmeister, (Henry Rosenbaum):** Is responsible for implementing and carrying out the operational decisions of the Event Director, coordinates all flight activities, coordinates with the Globitos Balloonmeister during the Event; and is responsible for and directs all Balloon Fiesta and Globitos Officials.
4. **Assistant Balloonmeister: (Tom Bueno)** Coordinates with the and assists the Balloonmeister on all activities governed by the Balloonmeister. Serves as the Balloonmeister for the Balloon Glow, Twilight Twinkle Glow and Special Shapes Glowdeo. Advises the Balloonmeister of all matters pertaining to flight safety. Is the point of contact with the Albuquerque Tower regarding implementation and release of airspace restrictions and serves as the coordination point of contact with the Globitomeister during Remote Control (RC) Balloon events.
5. **Globitos Balloonmeister (Melissa Bond):** Is responsible for implementing and carrying out the operational decisions of the Event Director. Coordinates all Fiesta de Los Globitos flight operations. Coordinates with the AIBF Event Director and Balloon Fiesta Balloonmeister to ensure that there are no conflicts with other flying or entertainment events on the launch field. Receives weather information from the AIBF Weather Team to brief Globitos Operators and make flight operations decisions best suited for the Fiesta de Los Globitos Event.

6. **Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister (Will Taylor):** Assists Globitos Balloonmeister with all Globitos flights, with attention to weather conditions and safe flight operations, and assists to detect and correct potentially unsafe operations. Coordinates with Globitos Balloonmeister, other Balloon Fiesta Officials and on-field law enforcement when assistance is needed.

Globitos Safety Official(s): Coordinates with the Globitos Balloonmeister and Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister on all matters pertaining to flight safety for the Event, monitors the safety of flight operations, and works to detect and correct potentially unsafe operations. Coordinates with the Globitos Balloonmeister, other Balloon Fiesta Officials and any on-field law enforcement when assistance is needed.

B. Balloon Registration and Airworthiness Determination

1. All RC balloons and operators participating in the 2026 Fiesta de Los Globitos Event(s) must be registered and approved by the Event Director, Pilot Administrator and Globitos Balloonmeister.
2. All balloons and operations shall be governed by the Code of Federal Regulations Title 14, Part 101, Subparts A, B and E. A copy of CFR 14, Part 101 is included as Appendix A of this document. Operators must ensure that all required standards are met.
3. Event personnel have the right to inspect the balloon systems at any time they deem necessary.
4. All balloons must be in a physical condition such that they are able to be operated in a manner that does not present an undue hazard to person(s) or property..

C. Required Equipment

1. Fire Extinguishers
 - i. Each balloon system must have a minimum of one (1) Class B fire extinguisher within five (5) feet of the launch point and be readily accessible to the Operator and crew members in case of fire.
 - ii. Each Globitos Safety Officer will carry a fire extinguisher while on the field during the operations of the Event.
2. Tether Line
 - i. Each balloon system must have a tether line, securely attached to the balloon system, during inflation, flight, or static display. Attachment devices shall be of metal construction and not plastic.
 - ii. Tether line must have bright, high visibility flags attached every 25 feet.
 - iii. Tether line must have 550 lb. minimum strength (e.g. paracord 550).
3. Tank Attachment
 - i. Each basket must have a system to secure fuel tanks in the basket.

D. Balloon Damage

1. If a balloon is damaged, the following procedure shall be followed:
 - i. If in flight, the Operator must land the balloon.
 - ii. Repairs or any damage to a balloon must be reviewed by the Globitos Balloonmeister, Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister, or a Globitos Safety Official to determine whether the balloon is in a safe condition prior to resuming participation in the Event. Participants are expected to consult with these officials whenever damage occurs.
 - iii. Repairs must be inspected by the Globitos Balloonmeister, Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister or a Globitos Safety Official to determine whether the balloon

is in a safe condition before participation in the Event can resume.

E. Event Documentation

AIBF shall maintain a roster containing the name, address, for each registered Operator and the manufacturer, model, and date of manufacture for each balloon participating in the Event.

F. Operators' Responsibilities

1. All operators are required to sign a statement indicating that they have read and understand this Operations Manual and Rules & Regulations prior to any inflation in the Event.
2. No one other than a registered Primary or Secondary operator/Pilot, is allowed to operate any balloon at Balloon Fiesta Park.
3. Each Operator has full and complete authority over the balloon and is responsible for all decisions made associated with the balloon on the ground and in the air. Each Operator must ensure that their crew, their equipment, and their own level of skill and experience are suitable for the conditions in their own judgment. The Operator is responsible for all the actions of their crew during the Event.
4. Operators are responsible for creating a safe environment to protect event bystanders, other r/c operator/Pilot and crew; full size Pilots and crew as well as surrounding property. This is crucial and the responsibility of every individual (PIC and crew) participating in Globitos flight Activities.
5. It is highly recommended that the Operator and/or owner of participating balloons have personal liability and theft coverage for their balloon and operations during the Event. AIBF does not provide coverage to participants in the Event.

G. Crew Member Responsibility

1. Regardless of size, each balloon should have no less than two (2) crew members in addition to the operator/pilot for all operations at Balloon Fiesta Park.
2. Either the Operator/pilot or a crew member must be assigned to monitor the inflation fan and must remain in control of fan at all times while the fan is in operation.
3. Crew members must be aware of the location of their balloon system's fire extinguisher(s) at all times while on the Launch Field.
4. The operator/pilot, or a crew member, must control the tether lines attached to the basket at all times during flight. They shall also act as the visual spotter for the duration of flight.
5. Crew members are under the direct supervision of the Operator/Pilot-In-Command (PIC) and must follow all instructions given by the PIC and/or Balloon Fiesta Officials.

H. Operator/Crew Briefing Responsibilities

1. Operators must review and confirm complete understanding of this Operations Manual and attend applicable Operator/Pilot briefings held on the launch field prior to acting as Operator/Pilot-In-Command (PIC).
2. Crew members during the Event must have been briefed by the PIC of the balloon. The total number of crew members is limited to five (5), including the Operator.
3. Before each Globitos inflation, all Operators are required to attend the applicable briefing and relay all important information to crew members.

II. GROUND OPERATIONS

- A. Operators shall adhere to all Academy of Model Aeronautics Safety Guidelines in addition to AIBF safety guidelines.

1. IMSAFE

- **Illness** - Am I suffering from any illness or symptoms that might affect the safe operation of the Globito?
- **Medication** - Am I taking any drugs (prescription or other) that might affect the safe operation of the Globito?
- **Stress** - Am I experiencing any psychological or emotional factors which might adversely affect my performance?
- **Alcohol** - Have I been drinking within the last 8 hours?
- **Fatigue** - Have I received sufficient sleep and adequate rest in the recent past?
- **Emotion** - Am I emotionally upset?

- A. Pre-inflation Inspections and Equipment Check

1. All operators must perform a pre-flight check to include at least these provisions:

- i. Connect tanks
- ii. Turn on tank valves
- iii. Perform a “Sniff test” to check for any propane leaks
- iv. Turn on pilot valve
- v. Lightpilot flame
- vi. Turn on radio system
- vii. Test burner
- viii. Turn off main burner tanks
- ix. Bleed main burner line
- x. Turn off pilot burner
- xi. Shut off radio system

2. Inspect the balloon envelope during cold inflation, including a check of the balloon material, for obvious tears or other visible damage.
3. Check suspension cables and attachment points.
4. Ensure tether lines, knots, and any attachment devices (carabiners, quick links, connectors, etc.) are secure and adequate, so they don’t detach during flight operations.

- B. Guests (Spectators)

Event guests will have unrestricted access to the launch field during inflation and launch operations, and each PIC shall be responsible for crowd control in the immediate vicinity of their balloon during the inflation, launch and flight. The PIC and the crew are responsible for the protection of their property. The PIC shall also take measures to protect guests from any dangers associated with balloon operations. Globitos Balloonmeister, Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister, Globitos’ Safety Officials and other Balloon Fiesta Officials will aid in crowd control if necessary.

III. FLIGHT OPERATIONS

A. Area of Operations

1. Balloon Fiesta Park: The primary location for the Fiesta de Los Globitos balloon Events during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is Balloon Fiesta Park. A map of the launch sites is attached as Appendix B.

B. Globitos Inflations

1. The Event will consist of Globitos inflations taking into consideration the weather conditions at the site and forecasted to develop during the anticipated flight times.
2. Globitos Mass Ascensions include officially registered balloons launching from designated launch sites on the Launch Field at Balloon Fiesta Park and may be in conjunction with full-size balloon Ascensions.
3. Globitos Balloon Glows occur with officially registered model balloons static displaying at sunset. Balloons are not allowed to free fly during these events and must either static display on the ground or be at a maximum of 6 feet above the ground. The Balloons must be securely tethered to the ground at all times.
4. Globitos flight operations may be allowed at times outside of the normally scheduled events at the discretion of the Globitos Balloonmeister, Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister and Balloon Fiesta Officials. Operators may not inflate their balloons at Balloon Fiesta Park unless they obtain authorization from the Globitos Balloonmeister prior to operation.

C. Altitudes

1. Globitos will not be permitted to fly at any altitude that is unsafe. As a further limitation Globitos are limited as follows:
 - i. Under no circumstances shall RC balloons fly at an altitude of more than 50 ft. above ground level during any Event.
 - ii. During full size balloon launches, (typically 7am to 8:30am) no RC balloon shall fly at an altitude greater than 25 ft above ground as referenced from the bottom of the RC Balloon basket.
 - iii. During glows, balloons are not allowed to tether or free fly and must either static display on the ground or be at a maximum of 6 feet above the ground. Globitos must be securely attached to the ground.
 - iv. Globitos may be allowed to fly at higher altitudes when large balloons are not conducting flight operations, e.g. tailgating times.

D. Weather Requirements

1. The decision for flight is the sole responsibility of the PIC.
2. Parameters for ground winds and safe operation
 - i. Winds above 7 knots – flights prohibited
 - ii. No other known conditions contrary to the safety of flight operations at the time of launch.
 - iii. The Globitos Balloonmeister, after consultation with the Event Director and appropriate Officials, shall cancel Mass Ascensions and events already underway if weather conditions are outside the limits outlined above. Events may also be canceled for any reason by the Globitos Balloonmeister at their sole discretion.

E. Communications Requirements

1. In accordance with Globitos rules, attendance at Globitos Operator briefings are mandatory and will be conducted at designated location beginning each morning at 0730 hours.
2. A Public Address (PA) system installed at Balloon Fiesta Park-North, the WhatsApp text messaging service and Globitos Officials will be used to inform Operators of the status of their flight and updated weather information. Each Operator and crew will also be supplied with appropriate emergency phone numbers.
3. In case of emergencies, the Globitos Balloonmeister, Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister and Globitos Safety Officials are able to communicate with Balloon Fiesta Public Safety, who can dispatch law enforcement or emergency personnel to respond to situations as needed.

Section 2

Rules & Regulations

I. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Operators

1. Entry: Operators must be officially registered with the Event, which is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 4, Wednesday, October 7, Friday, October 9, and Saturday, October 10 (Evening Glow). Other Events may be announced/scheduled weather permitting.
2. PIC Responsibilities: The (Operator) Operator/Pilot-In-Command (PIC) is responsible for compliance with all Event rules. The PIC will brief all designated crew members prior to each inflation and ensure that they understand their duties. No flight or inflation is mandatory, and all flights are made at the discretion of the PIC.
3. Acknowledgement: Operators must know, understand, and abide by all Event rules and regulations, including any rules that are added or modified during the Event and announced during any official Operator briefing.
4. Release of Liability and Waiver: The Operator, by entering the Event, agrees that the Organizer and sponsors of this Event, competition officials, officers, agents and/or members of these entities are providing PICs and their crews with the facilities and means for participation in this Event, but in no way do they supersede the responsibility of the Operator in command or otherwise.

In recognition of the Operator's responsibilities, and as a condition of participating in the Event, the Operator releases the Organizer and sponsors of this Event, competition officials, officers, agents and/or members of these entities (Released Parties) from liability for their actions or inactions in relation to the Event which may arise out of or result from or in any manner connected with the balloon flight or activity in which the Operator participates as an Operator in command. This release

encompasses any negligence of the Released Parties. The Operator likewise waives the right to sue the Released Parties for any claims relating to, arising out of or resulting in any way from Operator's participation as an Operator in command, including any claims for damages caused in whole or in part by the negligent acts or omissions of the Released Parties.

5. Liability to Third Parties: By entering the Event, Operator assumes all liability for injury, loss, or damage to third parties or their property caused by Operator or their crew.
6. Safety: All meteorological reports, forecasts, and other safety information are provided in good faith for the guidance of Participants. AIBF assumes no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of such information. It is the PIC's decision whether to rely on that information or acquire additional information.
7. Safety Officials: Officials will be appointed to monitor the inflation and operation of balloons at the Event location. However, nothing shall diminish the responsibility of each PIC under these rules and regulations.
8. Recall: Flight cancellation and other critical safety information will be communicated through Globitos Balloonmeister, Globitos Assistant Balloonmeister and Globitos Safety Officials or texts through the WhatsApp texting system.
9. Responsibility: Each PIC has full and complete authority over the balloon and is responsible for all decisions to be made associated with the balloon on the ground and in the air. Each PIC shall ensure that their crew, their equipment, and their own level of skill and experience are suitable for the conditions in their own judgment. The PIC is responsible for all the actions of their crew during the Event.
10. Conduct: PICs and their crews are required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and to comply with the directions of the Event Officials. Profanity or unsportsmanlike conduct directed at any Official Event Navigator (volunteer), other Operators/operators, or guests will be grounds for expulsion of the PIC from this Event and/or future Events.

B. Balloons

1. Must be registered for the Fiesta de Los Globitos Event. Up to two balloons may be registered per Operator. All participating balloons must display the official Globitos basket banner on the basket. If an Operator has registered two balloons for the event, the banner must be displayed on the basket being used.
2. Only registered balloons may be flown during the Event, and they must be present on the Launch Field for all Globitos inflations and flights which are scheduled.
3. Equipment: Globitos Officials and Balloon Fiesta Officials are authorized to visually inspect and disqualify any system which in their opinion poses a danger to persons or property at Balloon Fiesta Park.

4. Serious Infringements, Unsporting Behavior: Serious Infringements include dangerous or hazardous actions or repetitions of lesser infringements and may prevent the PIC from flying or may cause the PIC's removal from Event.

II. FLIGHT OPERATIONS

- A. Globitos Briefings: Attendance at the applicable daily Operator briefings for Globitos operators are mandatory and will be conducted beginning each morning at 0730 hours at a designated location.
- B. Operator/Pilot in Command (PIC): The PIC will brief all Crewmembers as to their duties.
- C. The maximum number of RC Balloon Crewmembers for each balloon is five (5), including the PIC.
- D. The PIC shall not allow any items to be dropped from the balloon.
- E. Altitude Violations: Violations of maximum flight altitudes will result in a penalty up to revocation of flying privileges.
 - i. Under no circumstances shall R/C balloons be allowed to fly at an altitude higher than 50 ft above ground level during the Event.
 - ii. During full size Balloon ascensions, (typically 7am to 8:30am) no R/C balloon shall fly at an altitude above 25 ft above ground level as referenced from the bottom of the RC Balloon basket.
- F. Inflation Fans
 1. All inflator fans must have appropriate safety cages.
 2. Gas, electric, or battery powered inflation fans are acceptable. However, AIBF will not have electric power available at the launch sites. PICs will have to supply their own power using a car power inverter, generator, or portable power station. All power cords must be routed so they don't present a tripping hazard to participants or spectators.
 3. PICs must ensure safe operation of the fan and prevent non-crewmembers' access to it. Fan operation must be always monitored by the PIC or crewmember during inflations. Anyone in the vicinity of the inflator fan needs to ensure they do not have any loose clothing or other articles that can be sucked into the cage.
- G. Launch
 1. Each Globitos' Launch site at Balloon Fiesta Park has been assigned and is indicated on the operator's badge. When flying/launching from the park, the PIC must inflate on the assigned site, unless specific permission is received from the Globitos Balloonmeister to do otherwise.
 2. PIC shall always maintain control of their balloon. Should an emergency occur, the PIC shall deflate the balloon immediately.
 3. There is more than one balloon assigned to each launch site, please be cooperative.
 4. Only the vehicle transporting the balloon with the Globitos basket banner, with the Globitos vehicle pass displayed in the windshield, is allowed on the Launch Field

during inflations. Penalty for infringement of this rule may be loss of flying privileges. Vehicles on Launch Field shall have their keys removed and should be locked when the Operator or crew members are not present for safety and the protection of personal property.

H. Tank Change During Flight

1. No propane cylinders shall be replaced while the balloon is inflated without appropriate precautions taken.
2. PIC must cause the Globito to land and remain at ground level during complete refueling process.
 - i. Turn off main burner tanks
 - ii. Operate burner to bleed down/burn off the line
 - iii. Turn off pilot light tank
 - iv. Replace main burner tanks
 - v. Turn on main burner tanks
 - vi. Perform sniff test, smell for propane leaks
 - vii. Turn on pilot light tank
 - viii. Turn on pilot light valve
 - ix. Light pilot
 - x. Test main burners
 - xi. Commence inflation if appropriate

- I. Tether Line: Tether lines must be marked with bright, high visibility flags every 25 feet to ensure compliance with height/altitude restrictions. Penalty may be a loss of flying privileges.
- J. Behavior: Participants are required to fly with proper consideration for people on the ground and other participants. Inconsiderate behavior by Operators and/or crewmembers may be penalized up to expulsion from the Event.

FIELD OPERATIONS

- A. Crowd Control: Each Operator/Pilot-In-Command (PIC) shall be responsible for crowd control in the immediate vicinity of their balloon during the inflation and launch. The PIC and crew are responsible for the protection of their property. The PIC shall also take measures to protect guests from any dangers associated with balloon operations. Globitos Safety Officials and other Balloon Fiesta Officials will aid in crowd control if necessary.
- B. No Drive Zone: No driving or parking is allowed on Main Street (Concession Concourse). Violations will result in loss of flying privileges
- C. Unauthorized and/or Unattended Vehicles: Unauthorized vehicles on the Balloon Fiesta Launch Field create unnecessary congestion and will be towed at owner's expense. During balloon launches from Balloon Fiesta Park, unattended vehicles, whether or not authorized to be on the launch sites, may be towed at owner's expense if the vehicle is deemed by Balloon Fiesta officials to pose a hazard to balloons, guests, or field operations. Authorized vehicles shall have their keys removed and should be locked when the Operator or crew members are not present for safety and the protection of personal property. This includes balloon trailers and recreational vehicles. Violation of this rule may result in the loss of flying privileges.
- D. Propane
 - 1. Each registered PIC will receive a cash stipend at registration to cover their propane expense and will be responsible for refueling their cylinders. No refueling operations can be conducted at Balloon Fiesta Park. Penalty for violation will be automatic expulsion from the Event.
 - 2. NEVER vent raw propane on Balloon Fiesta Park! Penalty for infringement may be up to one day's flying privileges.
 - 3. Registered operators will be responsible for supplying their own DOT certified, 5 gallons or larger, propane tanks for local suppliers to fill.

Appendices

- A. Code of Federal Regulations Title 14, Part 101
- B. Balloon Fiesta Park and Launch Site Map

Appendix A

PART 101—MOORED BALLOONS, KITES, AMATEUR ROCKETS, AND UNMANNED FREE BALLOONS

Authority: [49 U.S.C. 106\(f\)](#), [106\(g\)](#), [40101 note](#), [40103](#), [40113-40114](#), [45302](#), [44502](#), [44514](#), [44701-44702](#), [44721](#), [46308](#).

Subpart A—General

1. § 101.1 Applicability.

(a) This part prescribes rules governing the operation in the United States, of the following:

- (1) Except as provided for in [§ 101.7](#), any balloon that is moored to the surface of the earth or an object thereon and that has a diameter of more than 6 feet or a gas capacity of more than 115 cubic feet.
- (2) Except as provided for in [§ 101.7](#), any kite that weighs more than 5 pounds and is intended to be flown at the end of a rope or cable.
- (3) Any amateur rocket except aerial firework displays.
- (4) Except as provided for in [§ 101.7](#), any unmanned free balloon that—
 - (i) Carries a payload package that weighs more than four pounds and has a weight/size ratio of more than three ounces per square inch on any surface of the package, determined by dividing the total weight in ounces of the payload package by the area in square inches of its smallest surface;
 - (ii) Carries a payload package that weighs more than six pounds;
 - (iii) Carries a payload, of two or more packages, that weighs more than 12 pounds; or
 - (iv) Uses a rope or other device for suspension of the payload that requires an impact force of more than 50 pounds to separate the suspended payload from the balloon.

(b) For the purposes of this part, a *gyroglider* attached to a vehicle on the surface of the earth is considered to be a kite.

[Docket 1580, [28 FR 6721](#), June 29, 1963, as amended by Amdt. 101-1, [29 FR 46](#), Jan. 3, 1964; Amdt. 101-3, [35 FR 8213](#), May 26, 1970; Amdt. 101-8, [73 FR 73781](#), Dec. 4, 2008; [74 FR 38092](#), July 31, 2009; Amdt. 101-9, [81 FR 42208](#), June 28, 2016; Amdt. 101-10, [85 FR 79826](#), Dec. 11, 2020]

2. § 101.3 Waivers.

No person may conduct operations that require a deviation from this part except under a certificate of waiver issued by the Administrator.

[Docket 1580, [28 FR 6721](#), June 29, 1963]

3. § 101.5 Operations in prohibited or restricted areas.

No person may operate a moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a prohibited or restricted area unless he has permission from the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.

[Docket 1457, [29 FR 46](#), Jan. 3, 1964, as amended at [74 FR 38092](#), July 31, 2009]

4. § 101.7 Hazardous operations.

(a) No person may operate any moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a manner that creates a hazard to other persons, or their property.

(b) No person operating any moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon may allow an object to be dropped therefrom, if such action creates a hazard to other persons or their property.

(Sec. 6(c), Department of Transportation Act ([49 U.S.C. 1655\(c\)](#)))

[Docket 12800, [39 FR 22252](#), June 21, 1974, as amended at [74 FR 38092](#), July 31, 2009]

5. Subpart B—Moored Balloons and Kites

Source: Docket 1580, [28 FR 6722](#), June 29, 1963, unless otherwise noted.

6. § 101.11 Applicability.

This subpart applies to the operation of moored balloons and kites. However, a person operating a moored balloon or kite within a restricted area must comply only with [§ 101.19](#) and with additional limitations imposed by the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.

7. § 101.13 Operating limitations.

(a) Except as provided in [paragraph \(b\)](#) of this section, no person may operate a moored balloon or kite—

- (1) Less than 500 feet from the base of any cloud;
- (2) More than 500 feet above the surface of the earth;
- (3) From an area where the ground visibility is less than three miles; or
- (4) Within five miles of the boundary of any airport.

(b) [Paragraph \(a\)](#) of this section does not apply to the operation of a balloon or kite below the top of any structure and within 250 feet of it, if that shielded operation does not obscure any lighting on the structure.

8. § 101.15 Notice requirements.

No person may operate an unshielded moored balloon or kite more than 150 feet above the surface of the earth unless, at least 24 hours before beginning the operation, he gives the following information to the FAA ATC facility that is nearest to the place of intended operation:

- (a) The names and addresses of the owners and operators.
- (b) The size of the balloon or the size and weight of the kite.
- (c) The location of the operation.
- (d) The height above the surface of the earth at which the balloon or kite is to be operated.
- (e) The date, time, and duration of the operation.

9. § 101.17 Lighting and marking requirements.

(a) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite, between sunset and sunrise unless the balloon or kite, and its mooring lines, are lighted so as to give a visual warning equal to that required for obstructions to air navigation in the FAA publication "Obstruction Marking and Lighting".

(b) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite between sunrise and sunset unless its mooring lines have colored pennants or streamers attached at not more than 50 foot intervals beginning at 150 feet above the surface of the earth and visible for at least one mile.

(Sec. 6(c), Department of Transportation Act ([49 U.S.C. 1655\(c\)](#)))

[Docket 1580, [28 FR 6722](#), June 29, 1963, as amended by Amdt. 101-4, [39 FR 22252](#), June 21, 1974]

10. § 101.19 Rapid deflation device.

No person may operate a moored balloon unless it has a device that will automatically and rapidly deflate the balloon if it escapes from its moorings. If the device does not function properly, the operator shall immediately notify the nearest ATC facility of the location and time of the escape and the estimated flight path of the balloon.

Appendix B

Balloon Fiesta Park and Launch Site Map

