

Issued: 27 March 2012

**EASA CAA INFORMATION BULLETIN
HIGHLIGHTS OF EASA DEVELOPMENTS AND RELATED CAA
ACTIVITIES, COVERING THE PERIOD
1 MARCH – 27 MARCH 2012**

This Information Notice contains information that is for guidance and/or awareness.

Recipients are asked ensure that this Information Notice is copied to all members of their staff who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	All Aerodrome Licence Holders – of interest to those aerodromes within the EASA scope of applicability
Air Traffic:	All ATC and FIS
Airspace:	All NATMAC Members
Airworthiness:	All Airworthiness Organisations
Flight Operations:	All AOC Holders and General Aviation Pilots
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	All Training Organisations, All Pilots and Maintenance Engineers

1 Introduction

1.1 This Information Notice provides highlights of EASA developments and CAA activities covering the period 1 March to 27 March 2012.

2 EASA Management Board

2.1 The EASA Management Board met on 13 March. The agenda included the following:

- i) Update on Progress on Implementation of the Rulemaking Review (including a revised Management Board Decision)

The revised Management Board Decision on the Rulemaking Procedure was adopted. The Board welcomed the Agency's plan of activities to implement all the recommendations of the review report. The plan was grouped under themes including - setting up the new advisory structure; updating the planning procedure; outsourcing to industry and NAAs; strengthening the links between rulemaking, implementation and standardisation; communication and change management; training of rulemaking officers on project management.

The Board was informed that the first meeting of the new Rulemaking Advisory Group would take place in early July and the four Thematic Advisory Groups would take place on 20/21 June 2012.

ii) EASA's Research Strategy

The Agency outlined its strategy for making the most effective use of its small research budget to support the better regulatory responses to emerging safety problems as well as to emerging technological challenges. The Board welcomed the report, noting three areas where further development of the strategy would be helpful: the importance of the Agency's role in injecting safety aspects into wider EU research projects; the desirability of communicating the benefits of research in terms of improved safety outcomes; and indicating the role of planned research in meeting the objectives set out in the next iteration of the European Aviation Safety Plan.

iii) Regulation of General Aviation

There was a substantial discussion on whether a fresh look needed to be taken at the regulation of General Aviation (GA) within the EASA system, on the basis of an Agency paper and a paper prepared by Europe Air Sports and the International Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, presented on their behalf by Martin Robinson (a member of the EASA Advisory Board). The Board agreed that although the subject was complex and difficult, action needed to be taken because there were serious risks that GA would significantly decline and/or that non-compliance would increase. The Board agreed that the acceptable level of safety risk for GA must be higher than that for Commercial Air Transport Operations, that more effort was needed to avoid mixing regulations for these different kind of operations and that the simplicity and accessibility of GA rules should be increased. The Board agreed to set up a small group of experts (around 10 maximum), under the leadership of the Deputy Chair to the Board (Maxime Coffin), comprised of Agency, stakeholder, NAA and Commission experts to develop broad top-level guidelines for how GA could more effectively and proportionately be regulated. The Group should work quickly, and should clarify with the Commission how its work would relate to handling current Agency proposals for new implementing rules for non-commercial operations and special operations. The Board suggested that expert group should not consider continuing airworthiness matters directly in view of the Agency's task force on GA Part M rules.

iv) The agenda also included a regular report from the Executive Director, a progress report on the extension of rulemaking tasks, and ATM rulemaking, and some financial /administrative items, including a report from the FABs Group, adoption of the 2013 draft budget and work programme, and adoption of the 2013-2015 Staff Policy Plan.

3 EASA Committee Meeting

3.1 The next EASA Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on 3-4 May. The agenda has not yet been issued. An update will be provided following the meeting.

4 Other Rulemaking Topics

4.1 *Flight Time Limitations*

The CAA published comments on CRD to NPA 2010-14, which can be accessed via the link at paragraph 5.3 below.

4.2 *Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA Part B) Requirements regarding services in Air Navigation*

SERA Parts A and B (transposition of elements of ICAO Annex 2, Annex 3 and Annex 11) was adopted at the 45th meeting of the Single Sky Committee on 15/16 March 2012. The IR will now be subject to EC internal legal scrutiny processes prior to publication in the Official Journal (OJEU).

Introduction of the Rule into EU law is still expected to take place on 4 December 2012; Member States will be required to complete implementation of the Rule within two years of its introduction. Domestic implementation planning is under way and will include a safety assessment of the Rule's provisions.

AMC and GM in support of Parts A and B is under development and will be subject to EASA NPA action in the foreseeable future. Work also continues to develop SERA Part C (based upon elements of ICAO Doc 4444, Procedures for Air Navigation Services); associated NPA activity is expected to commence during the second half of 2012.

A SERA maintenance mechanism is under development and proposals are expected to be presented to the 46th meeting of the Single Sky Committee in June 2012.

4.3 *Single European Sky (SES)*

Progress on all SES activities is covered in the SES Bulletin published periodically on the following webpage: www.caa.co.uk/SES

4.4 *ATM/ANS (Air Traffic Management / Air Navigation Services) Implementing Rules (IR)*

The NPA for ATCO Licensing is expected to be published in the 2nd quarter of 2012. A further NPA combining ATM/ANS Common Requirements and Oversight regulations is expected in the 3rd quarter 2012 or possibly later.

EASA have issued an Advanced-NPA (A-NPA) on the harmonisation of Transition Altitude in Europe. This A-NPA is in parallel to consultation on Transition Altitude, already underway within the UK, details of which can be found at:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1350&pagetype=90&pageid=12919>

4.5 *Third Country Operators*

The CAA published comments on CRD to NPA 2011-05, which can be accessed via the link at paragraph 5.3 below.

5 **CAA Responses to NPAs and CRDs**

5.1 The CAA submitted comments on the following EASA consultations since the previous update (Information Notice 2012/038) was published:

CRD to NPA 2010-14	Implementing Rules and Certification Specifications for flight and duty time limitations and rest requirements for commercial air transport (CAT) with aeroplanes
CRD to NPA 2011-05	Third Country Operators
NPA 2011-19	Aircraft Continuing Airworthiness Monitoring

5.2 The CAA had no comments on the following EASA consultation since the previous update was published:

CRD to NPA 2011-13 Large Aeroplanes protection against fuel low level and fuel exhaustion

5.3 CAA responses on NPA and CRD consultations can be viewed via the following webpage:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=620&pagetype=90&pageid=11403>

6 Queries

6.1 Any queries related to this Information Notice should be sent to European.Affairs@caa.co.uk.

7 Cancellation

7.1 This Information Notice will remain in force until 26 September 2012.