



Issued: 23 October 2015

Extension of CAA Equipment Approval LA301075 for Handheld 8.33 kHz Channel Spaced VHF Radios – for use by Operators of EASA Balloons, Dirigibles/Non-rigid Airships and Gliders

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

Recipients are asked to 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).

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| Applicability: | |
| Aerodromes: | Not primarily affected |
| Air Traffic: | Not primarily affected |
| Airspace: | Not primarily affected |
| Airworthiness: | Not primarily affected |
| Flight Operations: | All EASA Balloons, dirigibles/non-rigid airship and glider operators |
| Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel: | All Pilot owners |

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Legislation for Voice Channel Spacing set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1079/2012 requires the majority of VHF aeronautical communication frequencies to be re-assigned as 8.33 kHz "channels" by 31 December 2018. Further information on this subject can be found in CAA Information Notice [IN-2013/018](#).
- 1.2 The CAA has determined that VHF handheld radios which meet certain clauses of the European Standard for ground based 8.33 kHz spaced communication equipment were safe for airborne use. This decision was promulgated via CAA Information Notice IN-2013/192 but the scope of CAA Approval LA301075 was, at that time, limited to non-EASA aircraft.
- 1.3 Legal advice subsequently obtained by the CAA has confirmed that the approval process detailed in IN-2013/192 could be extended to permit pilot operators of UK registered balloons, dirigibles/non-rigid airships and gliders to use 8.33 kHz capable handheld radios in UK airspace with the exception of flights conducted in airspace Classes A, B and C.
- 1.4 The previous restriction for use only on non-EASA aircraft has been removed and further limitation to exclude use on aircraft used for commercial air transport has been added (see 2.3 of this IN). All other aspects of Approval LA301075 remain unchanged.
- 1.5 This Information Notice supersedes IN-2013/192.

2 Scope

- 2.1 Handheld radios are by design “transportable” and UK legislation already permits the use of one hand held portable VHF radio for use on multiple aircraft (WT Act licence category : “*Transportable*”) but that legislation also requires the CAA to ensure that the user of the equipment holds a Flight Radiotelephony Operators Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, unless they are a glider pilot and exempted by Article 51 of the UK Air Navigation Order 2009 (Fourth Edition, Amendment 1, April 2015).
- 2.2 LA301075 is limited to handheld radio equipment used for VHF voice communication between the pilot operator of an aircraft or lighter than air vehicle and another licensed aeronautical radio station.
- 2.3 LA301075 will continue to exclude ancillary equipment such as mounting devices and connection to audio equipment, additional power supply sources or external antennas. Fixed ancillary equipment must be approved under existing processes and regulations applicable to the aircraft type.
- 2.4 The approved equipment must not be used in a commercial air transport aircraft. The UK ANO (**CAP 393**) currently defines a commercial air transport aircraft as one which is subject to Part-CAT. Passenger carrying balloons are not subject to Part CAT and therefore are not commercial air transport aircraft.

3 Further Information

- 3.1 Pilot owners must obtain confirmation from the radio manufacturer that their radio meets the conditions of the Approval. Once confirmed, the pilot should quote CAA Equipment Approval LA301075 as the approval reference when applying to the CAA for their Aircraft Radio Licence as required by the Wireless and Telegraphy Act.
- 3.2 The Approval has been published on the CAA website under **Aircraft Equipment section** on the CAA website.

4 Queries

- 4.1 Any queries or requests for further guidance regarding Radio Licensing should be addressed to: radio.licensing@caa.co.uk

Any queries or requests for further guidance regarding Equipment Approvals should be addressed to: nemod@caa.co.uk

5 Cancellation

- 5.1 This Information Notice will remain in force until further notice.