

Issued: 29 November 2013

Simplified Approval Process for Handheld VHF Radios

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).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	Not primarily affected
Air Traffic:	Not primarily affected
Airspace:	Not primarily affected
Airworthiness:	CAA Equipment Approval LA301075 for handheld 8.33 kHz channel spaced VHF radios.
Flight Operations:	Not primarily affected
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	Pilot owners

1. Introduction

1.1 The CAA has assessed and determined that handheld radios meeting certain clauses of the European Standard for ground-based 8.33 kHz channel spaced VHF radios are safe for airborne use and will not adversely impact network interoperability. Consequently, the CAA has issued Aircraft Equipment Approval LA301075 which will facilitate the use of these radios subject to conditions and limitations contained within the approval.

1.2 Recent legislation for Voice Channel Spacing set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1079/2012 - requires that radios 'put into service' after 17 November 2013 must be 8.33 kHz channel spaced. Further information previously published by the CAA on this subject can be found via Information Notice 2013/018:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=detail&id=5395>

1.3. Only radios approved by CAA or EASA for airborne use may be used in aircraft. The CAA recognises that increased use of VHF communications radio will provide safety benefits through enhanced situational awareness. The simplified approval process will allow non-EASA General Aviation aircraft to benefit from the new process when flying within the United Kingdom.

2. Scope

CAA Aircraft Equipment Approval LA301075 approves radios that meet certain clauses of the ETSI Standard EN300 676-1 and have a prescribed minimum transmitter output power. The Approval is limited for use within the UK for UK-registered non-EASA (Annex II of Regulation (EC) 216/2008) GA aircraft operating outside Class A, B and C airspace.

- 2.1 LA301075 only approves the basic handheld radio equipment for VHF voice communications and does not cover ancillary equipment such as chargers, mounting devices or external antennas. The fixed ancillary items must still be approved under existing processes and regulations applicable to the aircraft type.

3. Process

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

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=220&pagetype=90>

4. Queries

- 4.1 Any queries or further guidance required as a result of this communication should be addressed to:

requirements@caa.co.uk

5. Cancellation

- 5.1 This Information Notice shall remain in force until 31 December 2014.