



NATIONAL IFF/SSR POLICY BOARD

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06 December 2007

8AP/65/02/58_SS3/07/102

Dear «Title» «LastName»

APPROVAL OF IFF/SSR INTERROGATORS

In April 2006 my predecessor wrote to all National IFF/SSR Committee (NISC) Interrogator Approval holders, and other interested parties, advising that the NISC intended to cease renewal of approvals to operate for Mode A/C systems beyond December 2011. Furthermore, the letter requested that operators provide details of their plans to replace current Mode A/C IFF/SSR interrogators.

In the 18-months plus since then the Secretariat has received few details from operators, I would therefore like to take this opportunity to remind you of the progress of the UK implementation of Mode S and reinforce the 2011 deadline.

Details of the current Mode S Enhanced Surveillance (EHS) mandate and the separate legislation for the phased introduction of Mode S Elementary Surveillance (ELS) are available from the CAA Mode S mini-site (www.caa.co.uk/modes) under the 'Latest Information' heading. DfT has now signalled its agreement to Phase 1 of the ELS proposals, and once finalised the changes to the Air Navigation Order (ANO) will become effective from 31 March 2008. This will carry a 4-year transition period, to 2012, to enable those already equipped with Mode A/C transponders time to comply.

The need to cease approval of Mode A/C interrogators both on the ground and in the air (for certain military platforms) is borne from the requirement to sustain the already heavily congested IFF/SSR spectrum. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure consistency between the ground and air. With legislation already in place for the airborne environment, it is necessary to ensure that the ground environment can match this to provide sustainability and allow the RF benefits to be accrued.

You are therefore requested to formally note that with effect from 31 December 2011, the NISC will no longer issue approvals for ground-based (including maritime) or airborne¹ IFF/SSR Mode A/C interrogators. In addition, you are requested to provide the NISC Secretariat with details of your plans for the replacement of your Mode A/C interrogation capability. To ensure this information is recorded accurately I would ask that you complete

¹ Airborne in this context refers to military ISR platforms used for surveillance in the UK FIR/UIR. Mindful of the RF footprint of IFF interrogator equipped combat aircraft, the NISC is willing to review the Mode S requirements for these on a platform-by-platform basis.

the table at Annex A to this letter and return it to the Secretariat by 31 March 2008. All information provided will be treated as Commercial-in-Confidence. If you have notified the Secretariat or have replaced your mode A/C interrogation capability already, I would be grateful if you could still complete the table at Annex A and return it to the Secretariat accordingly.

Should you require any further details on the Mode S programme I would refer you to the Mode S mini-site in the first instance. If you still have any general Mode S questions please e-mail the Mode S inbox (mode.s@dap.caa.co.uk). If you have any specific NISC approval related queries please address them to the NISC Secretariat inbox (nisc@dap.caa.co.uk).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Clark', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John CLARK
Gp Capt
Chairman
NISC

Distribution

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Mode A/C IFF/SSR Interrogator Replacement Plans

Organisation name	
Interrogator name	
NISC approval certificate no.	
Contact name	
Contact telephone no.	
Contact e-mail	

<input type="checkbox"/>	I confirm receipt of the letter (8AP/65/02/58_SS3/07/102 dated 19 Nov 07) and acknowledge that the NISC will no longer approve Mode A/C IFF/SSR interrogation capability beyond 31 December 2011
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Current interrogator equipment	
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Intended replacement technology	Mode S/Buy-in data/Multilateration/Other (please specify)
Replacement technology manufacturer/model	
Contract let	Yes/No
Implementation date	

Airfield Specific Plans

Plans for Advanced-Surface Movement Ground Control System (A-SMGCS)	Yes/No
A-SMGCS technology manufacturer/model	
Contract let	Yes/No
Implementation date	