

Safety Regulation Group
Applications and Certification Section

05 May 2005

Our Ref 9/97/7/5

LETTER TO OWNERS/OPERATORS NO 2786
HONEYWELL PRIMUS II – TYPE RCZ-83() AND RCZ-85()
INCORRECT OPERATION OF HONEYWELL PRIMUS II TRANSPONDER
EQUIPMENT

This LTO has been issued to advise of a problem with aircraft equipped with Honeywell Primus II equipment of type RCZ-83() and RCZ-85(). These units are installed to provide Mode S Elementary Surveillance (ELS) capability as part of Primus-II systems. Affected P/N's of the equipment are: 7510700-725, -763, -765, -813, -815, -825, -863, -875 transponder(s).

The affected transponders may switch to 'standby' if the crew fails to change the Mode A code within 5 seconds. As a consequence, the SSR radar symbol and label associated with the aircraft's position will no longer be shown on the ATC radar display and the operation of ACAS systems on board own and other aircraft will be compromised. Operational procedures, typically, do not require the crew to recheck the transponder status after changing the 4096 ATC Code. This type of failure will increase ATC workload and could result in improper functioning of collision avoidance systems

It is recommended that the following action is introduced into the flight crew procedures:

'After completion of any Mode A Code change check the status of the transponder. If the transponder indicates that it is in standby mode, re-select the desired mode'.

The above crew procedure is a temporary solution until Service Bulletin A21-3851-005 is incorporated into the applicable units. Incorporation of this service bulletin will prevent the transponder reverting to standby and will enable the above temporary flight crew procedure to be removed.

Enquiries regarding this LTO should be referred to Kevin Hallworth, Systems Department on Telephone No 01293 573038 or at the address below:

Tracy Hannay (Mrs)
Airworthiness Directive Co-ordinator