

Safety Regulation Group
Survey Department

11 July 2006

Our Ref 9/97/7/5

**LETTER TO OWNERS/OPERATORS NO 2904
FLIGHT DATA RECORDERS (FDR) THAT STORE DATA
ON MAGNETIC TAPE – AIRCRAFT >5700 KGS**

You are being sent this LTO as an operator of an aircraft type that might qualify due to having a FDR installed and utilizing the recording media identified above. Your aircraft may however have a different FDR, dependent on design/modification standard.

The CAA has been advised of the findings made by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) into a recent incident involving a UK registered aircraft in which at least 3 hours of data was not available following a data download.

The FDR installed was a Honeywell model series 980-4100, but units of a similar build standard or technology could be similarly affected.

The fault that caused this to occur unfortunately is not detected whilst the unit is undergoing return to service testing utilizing Automatic Test Equipment (ATE). Honeywell have issued a Service Letter No. ATU-0434-SW_No.42 (dated 17 April 2006) that provides information on the software upgrade that will correct the problem.

Operators are therefore advised that when they send a unit for maintenance/repair they ensure that their maintenance providers are aware of this issue and the necessary measures are put in place to address the return to service testing.

Enquiries regarding this information should be addressed to Tony Heather, Survey Department at the address below.

Civil Aviation Authority

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