Directorate of Airspace Policy

April 2009

Policy Statement

DAP Policy For Transponder Mandatory Zones (TMZs)

1. Scope and Definition

1.1 A TMZ is defined, as a volume of airspace where aircraft wishing to enter or fly within the defined area, will be required to have and operate secondary surveillance radar equipment. TMZs are notified for the purpose of ANO 2005 Article 20(2). This equipment must include a pressure altitude reporting transponder capable of operating in Mode A and Mode C and has the capability and functionality prescribed for Mode S Elementary Surveillance (general exemption for VFR flights for aircraft equipped with Mode A/C until March 2012 is at Reference 1). The pilot of an aircraft that wishes to operate in a TMZ without such serviceable transponder equipment may be granted access to the TMZ subject to specific ATC approval.

2. Policy

2.1 A TMZ may be established for overriding safety reasons, where the airspace classification would not ordinarily require aircraft to carry a transponder. Where the case can be made a TMZ may also be established within controlled airspace.

2.2 The establishment of any TMZ shall be in accordance with the Airspace Change Process contained within CAP 724, the Airspace Charter, and the associated guidance published in CAP 725, the Guidance on the Application of the Airspace Change Process.

- The sponsor must consider the impact of a TMZ on all stakeholders and make suitable allowance for non-compliant airspace users to gain access to relevant parts of the TMZ where a legitimate requirement exists.
- The dimensions of the TMZ should be of the minimum size to meet the sponsor's specific requirements.
- Consultation should be appropriate to the airspace and location where the TMZ is being established.
- When determining the need for a TMZ consideration should be given to alternative means of managing the airspace.
- A TMZ shall be depicted on both the 1:250k and 1:500k charts.

3. DAP Point of Contact

3.1 Hd Controlled Airspace Section
Directorate of Airspace Policy
CAA House
45-59 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6TE

Original Signed

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Director of Airspace Policy

References:

1. ORS4 No 670: Schedule 5 Scale E2 – Mode S Secondary Surveillance Radar Equipment – General Exemption[1].

[1] Electronic Version available at:
http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=detail&id=3032