Safety Regulation Group
Air Traffic Standards Division

LETTER OF CONSULTATION
26 July 2011

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE AIR NAVIGATION ORDER 2009 TO REQUIRE OPERATORS OF AERONAUTICAL RADIO STATIONS WHO PROVIDE AN AIR/GROUND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, OFFSHORE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE AND A SERVICE TO AIRCRAFT AND PARACHUTISTS WITHIN PARACHUTE DROP ZONES TO BE APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED

ISSUE

The Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC) scheme is established to ensure that those who operate aeronautical radios, within the UK or UK territorial waters, for the purpose of providing an Air Ground Communication Service (AGCS), Offshore Communications Service (OCS) and those who provide a service to aircraft or parachutists within parachute drop zones, have appropriate levels of competency and can demonstrate this by undertaking an examination process (as specified in CAP 452), designed and implemented to ensure the safe and effective operation of these radio stations.

A review of the ROCC scheme, undertaken by the CAA, has shown a need to strengthen, update and bring legal clarity to the legislation that supports the operation of the ROCC scheme and to those who execute the privileges of an ROCC as issued by the CAA. Additionally, these steps will also simplify and improve the issuance of an ROCC and its oversight processes.

It is proposed, therefore, that the ANO be amended to underpin the mandatory nature of the ROCC scheme, making it a legal requirement for aeronautical radio station operators to be appropriately qualified to operate their radio station. This would ensure that those who wished to obtain an ROCC would be required, by law, to go through the current, CAA specified, examination processes.

THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE ANO

The proposed amendment to the Air Navigation Order 2009 is set out in the proposal document.

The proposed amendments will apply to those who currently hold or wish to hold ROCC for the provision of:

1. Air Ground Communications Service.
2. Offshore Communications Service.
3. A service within parachute drop zone to pilots of aircraft conducting paradropping activities, or to parachutists.

The proposed amendments will achieve the following objectives:

1. Require operators of aeronautical radio stations, within the UK and its territorial waters, who provide an Air Ground Communication Service (AGCS), Offshore Communications Service (OCS) and those who provide a service to aircraft or parachutists within parachute drop zones, to have appropriate competence for the task and be appropriately qualified.
2. To ensure the safe and effective operation of aeronautical radio stations.
3. To aid the safety of the aviation environment.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The procedures for the amendment of secondary legislation require that an Impact Assessment is compiled. A preliminary Impact Assessment has been produced for the proposed amendment of the ANO, conforming to the standard format used by the UK Government.

CONSULTATION

By means of this letter and associated documents setting out the proposed amendment and the preliminary Impact Assessment (IA), the CAA seeks the views of those who may be affected by this proposed change. Please forward any comments by e-mail to: ats.documents@caa.co.uk

Please include “ROCC - ANO proposal” in the title of your e-mail.

When making comments please refer to the reference number in the proposed change so that it is clear which part of the text you are commenting on.

The final IA may be amended dependant on adjustment of Government requirements. If this is the case an amended IA will be published at the appropriate time within the consultation process.

This consultation will close on 14 October 2011.

Stephen Wheeler
ATCO Licensing Specialist
July 2011

Associated Documents:

A: Proposed Amendment to the Air Navigation Order 2009 for ROCC.

B: Preliminary Impact Assessment