

11 October 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

LETTER OF CONSULTATION: INFORMATION PAPER - FIRE FIGHTING FOAM

Introduction

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) publishes requirements in Civil Aviation Publication (CAP) 168 concerning the performance of fire fighting foam for use at aircraft incidents. The CAA has also set out its commitment to the environment in its 5 year Strategic Plan 'To improve environmental performance through more efficient use of airspace and make an efficient contribution to reducing the aviation industry's environmental impacts'.

In recognition of the above the CAA intends to establish a Qualified Product List (QPL) for fire fighting foam that requires two essential elements for a product to be added to the QPL – evidence of fire fighting performance and of environmental impact.

Background

The performance requirements for fire fighting foam are set out in the International Civil Aviation Organisations (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in its publications Annex 14 and Airport Services Manual, Part 1, Rescue and Fire Fighting. These international requirements are transposed into the UK in CAP 168. In future ICAO will require the certification of the fire fighting performance to be validated by a third party testing authority. To avoid duplication, reduce further environmental impact, reduce costs to both manufacturers and aerodrome operators, and provide clarity and conformity, the establishment of a QPL is proposed.

The environmental impact of fire fighting foam requires clear, simple and straightforward advice on its short term (acute) and longer term (chronic) effects on the environment, usually to water catchment areas. This advice can then be used by aerodrome operators together with local knowledge of their environmental profile and water treatment systems to inform procurement decisions for fire fighting foam.

By bringing these two objectives together in one QPL the UK CAA aims to provide a one stop shop for purchasers of fire fighting foam to gain both performance and environmental impact information.

Purpose

The CAA intends to establish a QPL, published on its website, that fire fighting foam manufacturers can apply for their product/s to be listed on.

An Information Paper setting out the requirements for providing evidence of fire fighting performance and environmental impact has been developed and is available on the Consultations area of the CAA website.

Proposal

The CAA would now like to invite stakeholders to review and comment on the Information Paper - Fire Fighting Foam. The draft document can be viewed on the Consultations area of the CAA website via www.caa.co.uk/consultations.

A comments form is appended to the consultation web page for completion and submission to the CAA via consultation.asd@caa.co.uk.

Comments must be received by **18 January 2013**.

Yours faithfully

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