

2010/02

Applicability: All Organisations and Personnel involved in Aircraft Maintenance and Continuing Airworthiness Management

WITHDRAWAL OF DECLARATION OF FLIGHT MANUAL STANDARD (DFMS) SERVICE

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this AIRCOM is to provide further information following the withdrawal of Declaration of Flight Manual Standard (DFMS) service.

2 Background

- 2.1 AIRCOM 2009/17 announced the withdrawal of the DFMS service from 31 January 2010 and included an invitation for comments. As a result of comments received, a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has been compiled to help organisations tackle common Flight Manual queries. The FAQs can be found on the CAA website at www.caa.co.uk/FlightManuals

3 Further Information

- 3.1 Several of the comments received concerned the continued availability of CAA produced Change Sheets and Supplements. As a result of this specific feedback, it has been decided that CAA Change Sheets and Supplements will continue to be made available through the search results page of the CAA (G-INFO) website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/qinfo>

NOTES: 1 Aircraft with EASA Certificates of Airworthiness

For aircraft first registered in the United Kingdom before 28 September 2003, CAA Supplements containing "Additional Limitations for United Kingdom Certification" continue to form part of the certification basis. Applicable Change Sheets and Supplements remain a mandatory part of the Flight Manual, unless superseded by further EASA approved changes to the aircraft's design/configuration.

For aircraft first registered in the United Kingdom after 28 September 2003, the addition of CAA Supplements and Change Sheets to Flight Manuals is not mandatory provided that the aircraft conforms to a non-UK certification basis approved by EASA. Aircraft Owners/Operators may, however, elect to include relevant Supplements and Change Sheets in their Flight Manuals.

2 Aircraft with National Certificates of Airworthiness

CAA Supplements containing “Additional Limitations for United Kingdom Certification” continue to form part of the certification basis for the aircraft. Applicable Change Sheets and Supplements remain a mandatory part of the Flight Manual unless superseded by further CAA approved changes to the aircraft’s design/configuration.

3 Modified Aircraft

If an aircraft embodies a modification that was cleared under a CAA Airworthiness Approval Note (AAN), and if that clearance requires a CAA produced Supplement and/or Change sheet, then the relevant Supplement/Change sheet must be embodied.

4 Flight Testing

- 4.1 Current BCAR Section A and B Chapters A/B7-2 require copies of Aircraft Flight Manuals to be supplied to CAA for record purposes. A similar requirement for EASA Types does not exist. CAA is in the process of amending the BCAR requirement to remove the necessity for CAA to be directly supplied copies. However, CAA, in carrying out its regulatory flight test obligations, will continue to seek access to the specific AFM as part of a CAA test pilot’s preparation for flight test. This already happens in many instances today and CAA requests your continued cooperation in this activity.
- 4.2 We would emphasise the need for operators/owners to maintain an up to date copy of the AFM, both to ensure the relevant airworthiness and performance data is available and also because an AFM that does not reflect the current modification standard of the aircraft may cause a delay to any required air test.

5 Queries

- 5.1 Any queries as a result of this AIRCOM (other than flight testing queries), should be addressed to Airworthiness Applications and Approvals Department at the following e-mail address: aanda@caa.co.uk
- 5.2 Any queries regarding flight testing, should be addressed to Airworthiness Flight Test Section at flightdept.afts@caa.co.uk



Padhraic Kelleher
Head of Airworthiness

Date 26 February 2010

Recipients of new AIRCOMs are asked to ensure that these are copied to their 'in house' or contracted organisations, to relevant outside contractors, and to all members of their staff who could have an interest in the information or who need to take appropriate action in response to this Communication.

Review AAD/ACD February 2011