

22/2009

Applicability: All AOC Holders

TRAINING IN THE USE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Following an accident in the North Sea where the deployment and operation of Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT)/Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) was required, the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) made a recommendation to the CAA regarding operators training in the use of the equipment.
- 1.2 This FODCOM is published to remind operators of their responsibilities in ensuring that their crews are properly trained in the use of ELT/PLBs.

2 Issues

- 2.1 AAIB Safety Recommendation 2009-067 ([AAIB Special Bulletin 4/2009](#)) recommended that the CAA ensure that all aspects of ELT/PLB operation, particularly correct deployment of the antenna, are included and given appropriate emphasis in initial and recurrent commercial air transport crew training.
- 2.1.1 The rationale behind the recommendation stems from the accident where Search and Rescue activity was frustrated by poor signal propagation from the ELT/PLB transmitters. The AAIB identified that for the transmitters in question to propagate at full strength signal, in addition to placing the antenna in the vertical position, it had to be pulled out to its fully extended position. The crew in question were unaware of this requirement; the beacons were not appropriately placarded, and they had not received this information during emergency and survival training.

3 Requirements

- 3.1 The CAA's view is that such training is already mandated for operators carrying ELT/PLBs who should include reasons and techniques for the correct deployment of antenna in initial, conversion and recurrent training. The appropriate requirements for suitable training in the use of emergency and safety equipment can be found in the following:
- a) EU-OPS:
- i) AMC OPS 1.945 Conversion Course Syllabus - 3.1(e);
 - ii) 1.965 Recurrent Training and Checking – (d); and
 - iii) 1.1010 Conversion and Differences Training – (d)(3).
- b) JAR-OPS 3:
- i) AMC OPS 3.945 Conversion Course Syllabus - 4.1(c);
 - ii) 3.965 Recurrent Training and Checking – (d); and
 - iii) 3.1010 Conversion and Differences Training - (c)(3)
- c) Air Navigation Order 2005:
- i) Schedule 9, Part C, paragraph 2(1)(a).

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4 Recommendation

- 4.1 Operators should review their Training Manuals, and in particular the training syllabi contained in their Training Manuals, to ensure that all required training, and particularly emergency and survival training, covers all the relevant detail.

5 Queries

- 5.1 Any queries as a result of this FODCOM should be addressed to Head of Flight Operations Policy Department at the following e-mail address: FOP.Admin@caa.co.uk.

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Recipients of new FODCOMs are asked to ensure that these are copied to their 'in house' or contracted maintenance organisation, 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 FOP(C) July 2010