



# Civil Aviation Authority

## SAFETY NOTICE

Number: SN-2024/001



Issued: 30 January 2024

### ROCC 'Flight Safety Messages' Requirement

This Safety Notice contains recommendations regarding operational safety.

Recipients must ensure that this Notice is copied to all members of their staff who need to take appropriate action or who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	ROCC holders at aerodromes and offshore installations
Air Traffic:	ROCC holders at aerodromes and offshore installations
Airspace:	Not primarily affected
Airworthiness:	Not primarily affected
Flight Operations:	Pilots for information
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	All ROCC holders and Pilots for information

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 A recent accident has highlighted a need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the holders of a Radio Operator's Certificate of Competence (ROCC); in particular, in providing an Air Ground Communications Service (AGCS) and Offshore Communication Service (OCS).
- 1.2 The purpose of this Safety Notice (SN) is to highlight those occasions when the holder of an ROCC should provide pilots with additional information for the purpose of alerting them of hazards and avoiding immediate danger. Whilst the guidance described within this SN broadly applies to all holders of a ROCC, it is aimed primarily at AGCS and OCS radio station operators.
- 1.3 The purpose of the AGCS and OCS is to provide pilots operating on and in the vicinity of the aerodrome or platform with information to assist them in making a decision; noting that the safe conduct of the flight remains the pilot's responsibility. The holder of an ROCC discharges their duty of care to pilots by providing the AGCS or OCS in accordance with the provisions described within the Aeronautical Radio Station Operator's Guide (CAP 452).
- 1.4 AGCS and OCS are established when the aerodrome or platform operator has identified a need to establish an aeronautical radio station for the purpose of assisting aircraft but where the provision of air traffic services are not required. It is important to understand that AGCS and OCS are not air traffic services. One of the key differences between them is that the AGCS and OCS radio station operator is not required to be able to observe the movement area or airspace around the aerodrome or platform.

- 1.5 Typically, information provided to pilots by an AGCS or OCS radio station operator may include:
- retransmission of information on the position of an aircraft based on pilot's reports;
  - information from the aerodrome/platform operator on the condition of the aerodrome/platform and its facilities;
  - information on weather conditions affecting the aerodrome/platform.
- 1.6 However, the AGCS or OCS radio station operator may become aware of a hazard that poses an immediate danger to flights operating on and in the vicinity of the aerodrome or platform. Either from the reports of other pilots or from the aerodrome/platform operator. Some examples of these are:
- significant and/or rapid deterioration of weather conditions in the vicinity of the aerodrome or platform;
  - aircraft that are at immediate risk of collision;
  - issues affecting access to aerodrome/platform surfaces; and,
  - the provision of rescue and firefighting services.
- 1.7 In these instances, the AGCS or OCS radio station operator should inform affected pilots of the hazard. Transmissions must be passed in a clear and concise manner ensuring the use of unambiguous language, plain language may also be used to pass these safety critical messages if required. Depending on the operational circumstance, these messages including any meteorological advice of immediate concern may be individually communicated or passed via a broadcast on the frequency.

## 2 Meteorological Information

- 2.1 Information regarding adverse weather conditions (although this is not an official meteorological report) should be passed to aircraft concerned with the use of the following prefixes:
- "reported by a pilot (at time)...." or
  - "unofficial observation"
- 2.2 Examples of meteorological information messages (this list not exhaustive):
- "Unofficial observation, fog observed to East".
  - "Departing aircraft (at time) reported low cloud base of approximately 200 ft".
  - "Windshear reported (at time) by landing aircraft on final approach".
  - "Thunderstorms reported by a pilot (at time)...."

## 3 Further Information

- 3.1 The CAA has published [CAP 452 - Aeronautical Radio Station Operator's Guide](#) and Supplementary Amendments (SA) [No 01/2022](#) and No 01/2024 to CAP 452 to include further details and guidance on the ROCC requirements.

## 4 Queries

- 4.1 Any queries or requests for further guidance as a result of this Safety Notice should be addressed to CAA Personnel licensing Policy, via an email submitted to [ATS.Licensing@caa.co.uk](mailto:ATS.Licensing@caa.co.uk).

## **6 Cancellation**

This Safety Notice will remain in force until further notice.