



Civil Aviation Authority
SAFETY DIRECTIVE
Number: SD-2023/001



Version 2 Issued: 18 August 2023

Grounding of all Freely Astro Aircraft

This Safety Directive contains mandatory action that is required to restore an acceptable level of safety. It is issued in accordance with UK Reg (EU) 2019/947 Article 19 and Air Navigation Order 2016 Article 257.

Recipients must ensure that this Directive 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 organisation and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	Not affected
Air Traffic:	Not affected
Airspace:	Not affected
Airworthiness:	Not affected
Flight Operations:	Not affected
Licensed Personnel:	Not affected
RPAS:	All RPAS operators – Open and Specific Category.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The CAA has decided to issue this Safety Directive (SD) following the publication of Service Bulletin (SB) SB-005 and SB-006 by Freely. SB-005 recommends the immediate grounding of all Astro aircraft due to an in-flight software failure causing a crash.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Safety Directive is to temporarily ground all affected aircraft – Freely Astro UAS – due to an in-flight software failure causing a crash and an ongoing investigation to determine the root cause by the manufacturer.

2 Compliance/Action to be Taken

- 2.1 Immediately suspend all flight operations with Freely Astro models as stated in SB-005, and keep the aircraft grounded until Astro SB006 – Required Astro Firmware update has been implemented by the aircraft operator. This is applicable to all Open and Specific category operators who operate this aircraft type.
- 2.2 Operators should monitor any Freely communications regarding these Service Bulletins and required customer actions.

3 Further Information

- 3.1 Please refer to the manufacturer's published SBs for further information, guidance and actions required to be undertaken.

<https://freelysystems.com/knowledge-base/astro-sb005>

3.2 <https://freelysystems.com/knowledge-base/astro-sb006>

4 Queries

4.1 Any queries or requests for further guidance as a result of this communication should be addressed to: uavenquiries@caa.co.uk

4.2 Otherwise, queries should be addressed to the following e-mail address: SafetyPublicationsTeam@caa.co.uk.

5 Cancellation

5.1 This Directive will remain in force until further notice.

Signed: MICHAEL MACDONALD

Date: 18 August 2023