

Miscellaneous

No: 1663

UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139

Publication date: 20 August 2026

Exemption E6671

UK Standardised Rules of the Air – Alternative Provisions in Lieu of an Initial Call Prior to Entering Hawarden Radio Mandatory Zone

Background

- 1) SERA.6005(a)(2) requires that before entering a Radio Mandatory Zone (RMZ), pilots shall make an initial call on the appropriate communication channel.
- 2) The Hawarden RMZ was established to improve safety by creating a more informed traffic environment and reducing the risk of unknown aircraft operating within the airspace.
- 3) The RMZ incorporates several alternative operational provisions, including:
 - a) use of a Frequency Monitoring Code (FMC) procedure;
 - b) entry of aircraft under Letters of Agreement (LoAs) without prior co-ordination; and
 - c) arrangements for non-radio or special category operations.
- 4) Under the FMC procedure, aircraft may monitor the appropriate frequency and operate a specified transponder code, enabling Air Traffic Service (ATS) situational awareness without the need for an initial call.
- 5) In addition, LoAs establish that certain aircraft may enter the RMZ:
 - a) without co-ordination with Hawarden ATC;
 - b) while displaying specified Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) codes; and
 - c) provided they remain within defined areas (e.g. Shawbury AIAA / LFA9A).
- 6) These arrangements form part of the established operating model at Hawarden and are supported by safety assessments demonstrating that the risk of such operations is reduced to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) through procedural controls, surveillance, and co-ordination measures.
- 7) This exemption is granted to for compelling reasons and is of limited duration, pending longer-term regulatory or policy developments.

Exemption

- 8) The Civil Aviation Authority ('the CAA'), pursuant to Article 71 of UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, exempts pilots operating aircraft intending to enter the Hawarden RMZ from the requirement of UK Regulation (EU) No. 923/2012, Annex, SERA.6005(a)(2), that before entering an RMZ pilots shall make an initial call on the appropriate communication channel.
- 9) This exemption is granted subject to the following conditions:
- a) The exemption shall only apply where entry into the RMZ without prior establishment of two-way radiotelephony communication is conducted in accordance with published procedures, LoAs or ATS instructions.
 - b) Aircraft operating under an FMC shall:
 - i) always monitor the appropriate ATS frequency while within the RMZ;
 - ii) operate the assigned transponder code as required by local procedures; and
 - iii) comply immediately with any instructions issued by ATS.
 - c) Aircraft operating under a LoA may enter the RMZ without prior co-ordination only where:
 - i) explicitly permitted by the relevant LoA;
 - ii) operating within the defined geographical or procedural limits; and
 - iii) displaying the specified SSR codes (where applicable).
 - d) Aircraft not equipped with radiotelephony shall operate only in accordance with an applicable LoA or agreed procedure and comply with any routing, altitude or operational constraints defined by ATS.
 - e) Operations conducted under this exemption shall remain within the scope of existing safety assessments and risk mitigations associated with the Hawarden RMZ.

Date in Force

- 10) This exemption has effect from the date it is signed until 01 July 2029, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

Signed:

Matthew Gee

for the Civil Aviation Authority

Date: 19 August 2026