

Note to owners and pilots of non 8,33 kHz equipped aircraft

9 January 2018

1. Introduction

According to Commission Implementing Regulation 1079/2012 laying down requirements for voice channels spacing :

- By 31 December 2017, all radios operating in the 117,975-137 MHz band (the VHF band allocated to aviation) shall have the 8,33 kHz channel spacing capability (Art. 4.5),
- From 1st January 2018, an operator shall not operate an aircraft in airspace where carriage of radio is required unless the aircraft radio equipment has the 8,33 kHz channel spacing capability (Art. 5.4).

These requirements were reminded in AIC 011/2014 of 18 September 2014, Circulaire EQUIP-11 from 5 May 2017, AIP Be-Lux dated 23 November 2017 (with effective date 4 January 2018) as well as in two BIPT-BCAA letters that were sent to all radio owners end of 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Despite these reminders, the radio equipment of some aircraft could not be upgraded in due time, notably because some manufacturers went out of stock or maintenance organisations were overbooked.

The purpose of this note is to provide instructions to pilots of non 8,33 kHz equipped aircraft who need to cross an airspace where carriage of radio is required in order to fly to the maintenance organisation where their aircraft radio equipment will be upgraded.

2. Instructions

Pilots of non 8,33 kHz equipped aircraft who need to cross an airspace where carriage of radio is required in order to fly to the maintenance organisation where their aircraft radio equipment will be upgraded are required :

- to fill in and submit a VFR flight plan with the following text under item 18 : "REM/8,33 kHz upgrade flight",
- and to send a copy of the submitted flight plan to the Belgian CAA (at aspa.exemptions@mobilite.fgov.be).

No IFR flight plan will be accepted.

3. Validity

Such exemption approvals will be granted only once per aircraft. No exemption approval shall be granted after 30 June 2018.

For the Director General a.i. of the Belgian Civil Aviation Authority
By suppleance
Patrick VANHEYTE
Director

