

SUBJECT : Specific measures concerning exemptions from the requirement to carry 8.33-kHz compatible radio below FL 195

The purpose of this circular is to inform about the specific measures to allow exemptions from the requirement to carry 8.33-kHz compatible radio in airspace classes A and C of the French Flight Information Region (FIR France), below FL 195. It complements AIC A 09/13 of 5 September 2013.

The definitions of AIC A 09/13 are included in this circular. However, to avoid confusion, the following definition is recalled:

- 8.33-kHz compatible radio: *"VHF communication equipment, providing a permanent bilateral link with the designated ground units, capable of using the channel spacing of 8.33 kHz and 25 kHz"*

1 REMINDER

Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 1079/2012 of the European Commission of 16 November 2012 sets out a number of requirements applicable to aircraft flying as general air traffic (GAT). In particular, from 1 January 2014, aircraft operated under IFR shall carry an 8.33-kHz compatible radio to operate in airspace classes A, B and C of some countries of the ICAO EUR region, including France. No provision to allow exemptions from this requirement is provided in the said regulation

2 DIFFICULTIES RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT UNDER IFR

Several aircraft operators have informed DGAC services that a significant number of their aircraft operated under IFR will be equipped with 8.33-kHz compatible radio, only during year 2014 and even beyond.

It then became necessary to provide on a temporary basis the possibility for aircraft to be exempt from the requirement referred to in paragraph 1 above.

3 EXEMPTIONS FROM THE OBLIGATION OF CARRYING 8.33-kHz COMPATIBLE RADIO BELOW FL 195

- It is recalled that the aircraft radio equipment required for IFR flight must at least be able to use the channel spacing of 25 kHz;
 - Until 31 December 2014 included: in the French Flight Information Region (*FIR France*), aircraft operating under IFR and carrying radio equipment not 8.33-kHz compatible, are allowed to operate in airspace classes A and C located below FL 195, provided that aircraft communicate with appropriate air traffic service units on a 25-kHz frequency.

Caution:

- It is important to note that the exemption described in the preceding paragraph is valid only within the French Flight Information Region (*FIR France*) and only below FL 195;

- From 1 January 2015, the carriage of 8.33-kHz compatible radio equipment is mandatory for IFR flights in airspace classes A and C of the French Flight Information Region (*FIR France*). Thus, in order to meet this requirement, the aircraft concerned must be equipped with 8.33-kHz compatible radio during 2014.

4 SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

For aircraft that are exempt from the requirement to carry 8.33-kHz compatible radio in accordance with paragraph 3 above, the following steps shall be followed:

- in field 10-a of the flight plan form, **do not enter the letter 'Y'** which is used to indicate that the aircraft radio equipment is capable of using the channel spacing of 8.33 kHz and 25 kHz;

- in field 15 of the flight plan form:

- indicated flight levels must be lower than flight level 195;

- portions of the specified route **shall not** cross an ATC sector operating in a channel spacing of 8.33 kHz.

The vertical and lateral limits of control sectors are depicted in the ENR 3.8 part of the French AIP. The frequencies to be contacted in accordance with the control sector in which the aircraft is operating are depicted in the ENR 3.7 part of the French AIP.

- in field 18 of the flight plan form, indication of 'COM/EXM833' **shall not** be used.