



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Twelfth Meeting of the South East Asia ATS Coordination Group
(SEACG/12)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 6 May 2005

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

**DELAY TO THE APPLICABILITY DATE FOR MANDATORY CARRIAGE OF
ELECTRONIC LOCATOR TRANSMITTERS (ELT)
OPERATING SIMULTANEOUSLY ON 406 AND 121.5 MHz**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

A number of States have not been able to comply with the 1 January 2005 implementation date for SARPS requiring the mandatory carriage of automatic ELTs operating simultaneously on 406 MHz and on 121.5 MHz by aeroplanes operated on long-range over-water flights and over designated land areas. Consequently, the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) invited comments to ICAO Montreal by 15 March 2005 on a proposal to defer the implementation date until 1 January 2007.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Standards relating to the mandatory carriage of automatic ELTs operating simultaneously on 406 MHz and on 121.5 MHz by aeroplanes operated on long-range over-water flights and over designated land areas were adopted by the ICAO Council on 15 March 1999, with an applicability date of 1 January 2002 for all new aircraft (for which the certificate of airworthiness was first issued after that date) and 1 January 2005 for all aircraft. The carriage of an automatically activated ELT, operating simultaneously on 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz, had been recommended since 1994.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 During the last half of 2004, with little time remaining until the applicability date of the new Standards, the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) recognized that a number of States had not yet fully implemented the ELT requirements in their national regulations. It was also recognized that while some regulators may have developed specific national requirements and, in some cases, had notified ICAO of differences to the ICAO Standards concerned, their operators must still meet the requirements of other States for flights operating into these other States' airspace.

2.2 The ANC decided that States be asked whether it would be advisable to defer the applicability date for mandatory carriage of the automatic ELTs operating on 406/121.5 MHz. In this regard State Letter AN 15/12-04/97 was issued on 31 December 2004, inviting comments to reach Montreal by 15 March 2005 on the proposal that the applicability date of the provisions in Annex 6 – *Operation of Aircraft*, Part I related to the mandatory carriage of automatic ELTs operating simultaneously on 406 MHz and 121.5 MHz be amended from 1 January 2005 to 1 January 2007. For reasons of consistency, the proposal to amend Annex 6 Part I includes proposed amendments to

corresponding provisions in Annex 6, Parts II and III.

As the date for comments has expired, the ANC is expected to consider State responses in the near term and advise the outcomes of their deliberations in due course.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the ICAO activities in regard to the proposal to defer implementation of the subject SARPS until 1 January 2007.

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