



Issued: 9 October 2013

CONSULTATION: REPLACEMENT OF CLASS F AIRSPACE IN UK FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS – ADDENDUM CONSULTATION

This Information Notice contains information that is for guidance and/or awareness.

Recipients are asked ensure that this Information Notice is copied to all members of their staff who may have an interest in the information (including any ‘in-house’ or contracted organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	Not Primarily Affected
Air Traffic:	Not Primarily Affected
Airspace:	All NATMAC Representatives
Airworthiness:	Not Primarily Affected
Flight Operations:	Not Primarily Affected
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	Not Primarily Affected

1. Introduction

1.1 ICAO requires that airspace is classified and designated according to the Air Traffic Service (ATS) Airspace Classifications as detailed in ICAO Annex 11. The UK currently applies the Airspace Classification System subject to:

- the Differences detailed at UK AIP GEN 1.7,
- the European Commission’s Airspace Classification Regulation (Regulation 730/2006 dated 11 May 2006),
- the harmonisation principles of the ECAC Airspace Strategy, and
- the Application of ICAO Airspace Classification in UK Flight Information Regions (Directorate of Airspace Policy, 31 August 2010).

1.2 Within the UK FIRs Class F is specified for UK Advisory Routes (ADRs) ICAO Annex 11 considers Class F to be a temporary an transitional measure only until such time as it can be replaced by an air traffic control service, i.e., through the application of Classes A-E.

2. The Need for Change

2.1 The ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) inspection of the UK conducted during February 2009 found that there are no timelines for replacing air traffic advisory service within Class F within the UK and that, in ICAO terms, this was inappropriate use of this airspace classification. In addition, the provision of Deconfliction

Service or Procedural to participating aircraft operating within Class F will not be compliant with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 923/2012 of 26 September 2012 (Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA)) following its implementation by the UK on 4 December 2014.

- 2.2 The CAA's proposals to replace Class F ADRs by means of regularisation to Class E airways, enhanced by additional SERA-compliant conspicuity requirements were the subject of a CAA consultation which ended on 26 July 2013. Consultation comments identified a need for additional airspace 'fillets' in the vicinity of the Aberdeen Control Zone/Control Area. These are considered necessary in order to facilitate continued application of current radar vectoring of traffic off what are currently Class F ADRs, but which are likely to become airways (i.e. controlled airspace as described in the previous paragraph) whilst remaining compliant with Manual of Air Traffic Services Part 1 requirements for such aircraft to remain in controlled airspace. It is therefore necessary to undertake an addendum consultation on the CAA's proposals for the establishment of this additional airspace.

3 Comments on Proposed Changes

- 3.1 The CAA invites industry to comment on its proposals, full details of which can be found on the CAA website at www.caa.co.uk/consultations.
- 3.2 The consultation period will run from **9 October 2013** to **4 November 2013** and replacement of Class F will be completed no later than AIRAC 12/2014 (13 November 2014).
- 3.3 Comments received during this addendum consultation will be considered alongside those received during the initial consultation and will inform the CAA's final proposals concerning the replacement of Class F airspace. Industry will be informed of the CAA's intended way forward as soon as possible after the addendum consultation.

4 Queries

- 4.1 Any queries or further guidance required as a result of this communication should be addressed to:

Airspace Regulation
Safety and Airspace Regulation Group
CAA House
45-59 Kingsway
London WC2B 6TE

e-mail: airspace@caa.co.uk

5. Cancellation

- 5.1 This Information Notice shall remain in force until 31 November 2013.