



Civil Aviation Authority
SAFETY NOTICE
Number: SN-2024/003



Issued: 27 June 2024

Approvals for Flights to Exceed 250 KIAS Below 10,000ft AMSL

This Safety Notice contains recommendations regarding operational safety.

Recipients must ensure that this Notice is copied to all members of their staff who need to take appropriate action or who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	Not primarily affected
Air Traffic:	All surveillance-based air traffic service providers
Airspace:	All Class D & E controlled airspace management
Airworthiness:	Not primarily affected
Flight Operations:	Operators of General Aviation Aircraft with a SERA.6001 Approval
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	Not primarily affected

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Safety Notice applies to all aircraft where the UK CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) has issued an approval under Assimilated Regulation (EU) No 923/2012 the (UK) Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA) SERA.6001 which imposes a speed limitation of 250 knots indicated airspeed (KIAS) on VFR flights in class C airspace and all flights in classes D, E, F and G airspace when flying under 10,000 feet (ft) above mean sea level (AMSL).
- 1.2 In certain circumstances the CAA may issue an approval to an operator who is required to comply with the above speed restriction. The approval authorises them to exceed the 250 KIAS speed limit when flying below 10,000 (ft) AMSL. All such applications submitted for approval must include evidence of a clear safety or technical rationale, and that the granting of such an approval would not pose unnecessary risks to flight safety and airspace management.
- 1.3 The CAA is reminding all operators that holding an approval to exceed 250 KIAS below 10,000 (ft) AMSL is not an automatic agreement to exceed the airspace speed limit, but an approval to exceed the speed limit within class D & E with the air traffic control (ATC) service provider's permission. It is a requirement that pilots must obtain permission from the respective ATC service provider before utilising this approval within that airspace. ATC have the obligation to refuse such requests to exceed the airspace speed limit, when such speed would cause a substantial controller workload increase, or if other conditions do not permit safe operations of that speed in that airspace.
- 1.4 This Safety Notice is not a change in policy but a reaffirmation of existing regulations and procedures to ensure safe and efficient operations within airspace. The requirement to obtain

permission from the ATC service provider is and always has been essential to facilitate effective coordination and ensure the safe integration of high-speed operations with other airspace users.

2 Action to be Taken

- 2.1 **Amended Condition:** The following changes to the conditions for approval at paragraph 3(b) in all current SERA.6001 approvals must now be understood to specify:

Current wording: *“the said flights shall only be made in Class D, E or G airspace within the UK FIR”*

Amended wording: *“the pilot in command of the aircraft **must** obtain ATC permission to exceed 250 KIAS for flights in Class D or E airspace. The said flights shall only be made in Class D, E or G airspace within the Scottish and London Flight Information Regions (FIR).*

- 2.2 **Reissuing of Approvals:** The CAA will be immediately reissuing all current SERA.6001 approvals with the above stated change to ensure that operators and pilots are aware of their obligations. The change to all approvals regardless of being in receipt of an updated approval is effective from the date of this Safety Notice issue.

- 2.3 **Communication:** It is essential for all operators and pilots who utilise their approval in the same airspace on multiple occasions to liaise closely with the ATC service provider to effectively facilitate their operational requirements. Clear communication and coordination with ATC assist with the safe and efficient integration of flights while maintaining airspace integrity and safety.

In line with this commitment, the CAA will be sharing this notice supplemented with a notice to all ATC service providers detailing the specific aircraft granted approval to conduct operations above 250 KIAS below 10,000 (ft) AMSL. This proactive communication will enhance situational awareness for ATC and aid in the smooth management of airspace activities, promoting collaborative efforts toward enhancing aviation safety and efficiency.

As a reminder to all operators, when receiving an ATS surveillance service in order to alert the controller to this higher speed profile, pilots of aircraft using a SERA.6001 approval shall, on initial contact, prefix the aircraft callsign with ‘FASTJET’ or ‘FASTPROP’ (depending on propulsion type) as per civil aviation publication. www.caa.co.uk/cap413.

- 2.4 **Moving Forward:** The CAA will be closely monitoring the compliance with the SERA.6001 Approval conditions.

3 Queries

- 3.1 Any queries or requests for further guidance because of this communication should be addressed to:

General Aviation Unit
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Beehive Ring Road, Crawley
West Sussex, RH6 0YR
Tel: 0330 022 1500

E-mail: GA@caa.co.uk

4 Cancellation

- 4.1 This Safety Notice will remain in force until further notice.