



Civil Aviation Authority

SAFETY NOTICE

Number: SN-2024/008



Issued: 10 October 2024

Aircraft Registration Markings

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:	Not primarily affected
Airspace:	Not primarily affected
Airworthiness:	Part-CAMO, Part-M, Part-CAO, Part-ML, aircraft owners, licenced engineers
Flight Operations:	Not primarily affected
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	Not primarily affected

1 Introduction

- 1.1 To ensure the safe operation of environments such as aerodromes and operating sites, aircraft must be clearly and easily identifiable. An aircraft that cannot be clearly identified is in danger of being given confusing or incorrect instructions which could lead to runway incursions and other safety events. Runway safety has been identified by the CAA as a Key Risk Area (KRA). The CAA is seeing an increasing number of aircraft with non-compliant aircraft registration markings, making it difficult to identify them in certain lighting conditions. This Safety Notice sets out mandatory requirements and guidance for registration marks to ensure that owners, engineers and organisations responsible for ensuring aircraft are correctly marked understand their obligations.
- 1.2 It is a requirement of [Schedule 4, Part 2 of the Air Navigation Order 2016](#) that aircraft registration markings must be of the same colour and clearly contrast with the background on which they appear, ornamentation and embellishment of the registrations marks by any form incl. shadowing, outline etc. are not allowed. The CAA provides further guidance on what is acceptable in [Display of Nationality and Registration Marks on Aircraft publication \(CAP 523\)](#).

2 Action to be taken

- 2.1 Aircraft owners, supported by airworthiness management and maintenance organisations or licenced engineers, are responsible for correct marking at their initial application and, subsequently, after maintenance activity that may have an impact on the marking, such as

repainting of an aircraft. Mandatory aircraft markings and placards should be also checked during the physical survey for the Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) or National Airworthiness Review Certificate (NARC) recommendation, as required during the ARC/NARC Renewal process, or Permit to Fly issue or renewal.

Aircraft owners and operators must ensure that their aircraft registration markings are compliant with [Schedule 4, Part 2 of the Air Navigation Order 2016](#).

The proper display of registration marks is in the interests of the owner and the commander of the aircraft. Non-compliance with the provisions of [Article 32 of the Air Navigation Order 2016](#) may lead to prosecution.

3 Queries

- 3.1 Any queries or requests for further guidance as a result of this communication should be addressed to aircraft.reg@caa.co.uk.

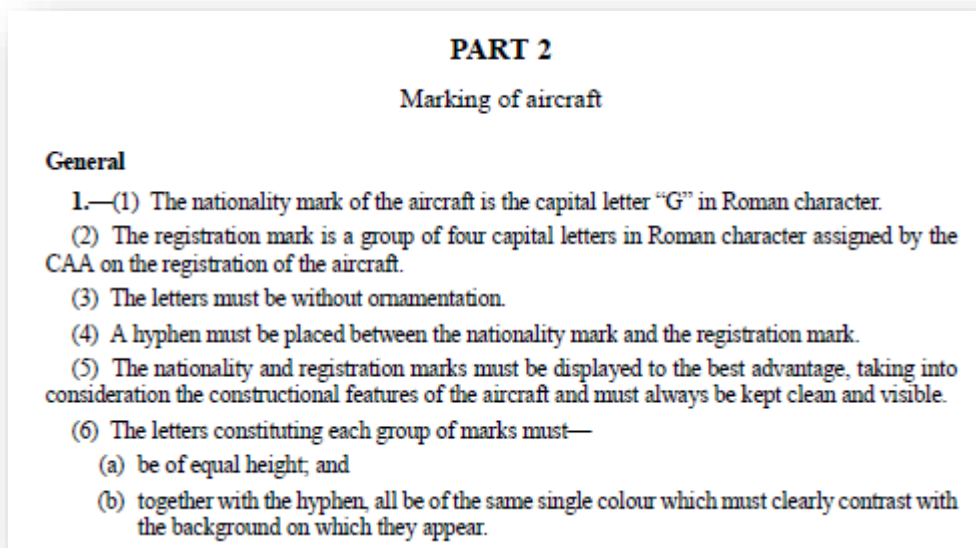
4 Cancellation

- 4.1 This Safety Notice will remain in force until withdrawn.

Appendix 1

1. Clarification on acceptable aircraft registration markings

Schedule 4 Part 2 Air Navigation Order extract –



2. Text Clarification

Below is the CAA guidance on key wording of the associated text within the Air Navigation Order.

- a) Without ornamentation (Para 3) –

Ornamentation means adding decorative elements to enhance appearance.

- b) Clearly contrast (Para 6b) –

Contrasting colours in this context means two colours that are strikingly different.