

Supplementary Amendment CAP 1391 Electronic Conspicuity Devices



Safety and Airspace Regulation Group

Airspace, Air Traffic Management & Aerodromes

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Licensing of 978 MHz UAT frequency for airborne transmission by Unmanned Aircraft

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Supplementary Amendment (SA) to Electronic Conspicuity Devices (CAP 1391) is to authorise the use of the 978 MHz Universal Access Transceiver (UAT) frequency for airborne transmission onboard Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) applications, under the RTCA minimum performance standards DO-282B. (It is expected that DO-282C will be the standard from 2027.)

2 Background

- 2.1 In December 2022, the Department for Transport (DfT) and CAA published a joint statement detailing their support for the recommended adoption of Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) operating on 1090 MHz for manned aircraft and 978 MHz for UAS respectively, utilising existing global standards. The DfT and CAA are currently undertaking a programme of work to deliver this Electronic Conspicuity (EC) specification, aligned to the aims of the Airspace Modernisation Strategy (AMS), to support the rapidly evolving needs of new airspace users and to provide additional safety benefits to existing airspace users in Class G airspace in the UK.
- 2.2 The CAA engaged a test house facility to carry out a programme of compatibility measurement studies. The studies produced a set of test reports based on the interoperability of the 978 MHz UAT frequency with other technologies including within the PMSE radio microphones and in ear monitors as permitted through a spectrum sharing arrangement with Ofcom. These reports concluded that interoperability with other technologies is suitable to allow the airborne licensing of the 978 MHz UAT frequency.

3 Amendment to CAP 1391

- 3.1 With effect from 11 March 2025, CAP 1391 is amended as shown in Appendix E below. CAP 1391 will be updated with this change on the next amendment.

4 Queries

- 4.1 Any queries or further guidance required on the content of this Supplementary Amendment (SA) should be marked for the attention of the Electronic Conspicuity Team and sent to: EC@caa.co.uk

5 Cancellation

- 5.1 This SA shall remain in force until incorporated into CAP 1391 or it is cancelled, suspended, or amended.

CAP 1391 Appendix E

Editorial Note. The text **below** is inserted as a new appendix E.

APPENDIX E

Licensing of 978 MHz UAT frequency for airborne transmission by Unmanned Aircraft

Conditions of Use

- 1.1 The license is subject to the following conditions:
- The 978 MHz frequency is used only on-board specific category UAS operating beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS).
 - The device should function in accordance with the RTCA minimum performance standards DO-282B. (It is expected that DO-282C will be the standard from 2027.)
 - A callsign for the Unmanned Aircraft (UA) should be allocated and agreed with the CAA, and an appropriate 24-bit aircraft address will be allocated where necessary on a case-by-case basis.
 - The detailed specification of the UAT equipment is declared to the CAA RPAS sector team during application for a Specific Category authorisation.
 - The 978 MHz UAT frequency shall not be transmitted from a manned aircraft.
- 1.2 RPAS operators can [apply for a 978 MHz UAT license](#) through Ofcom.
- 1.3 RPAS operators can also [request an ICAO 24-bit hexadecimal aircraft address](#) from the CAA.