



Civil Aviation Authority
INFORMATION NOTICE
Number: IN-2014/033



Issued: 4 February 2014

Transition Altitude Update

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

Recipients are asked to 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 maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	All Aerodrome Licence Holders
Air Traffic:	All ATS Providers
Airspace:	All NATMAC Representatives
Airworthiness:	Not primarily affected
Flight Operations:	Not primarily affected
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	Not primarily affected

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document provides an update regarding the proposed timescales for a harmonised Transition Altitude (TA) in the London and Scottish Flight Information Regions (IN-2012/059 & IN-2013/069 refer).

2. Ongoing Work

- 2.1 Since the last TA Information Notice was published in May 2013, NATS, the CAA and the MoD have worked collaboratively to produce a more robust Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for a higher TA.

3. The European Position

- 3.1 The European position on a Harmonised European Transition Altitude (HETA) is still unclear and it is not anticipated that a decision will be made within the required timescale of the UK TA project. The UK project is time constrained by the requirement to implement the London Airspace Management Programme (LAMP) at the earliest opportunity. The considerable benefits associated with this project are largely dependent on the implementation of a higher TA. Implementation of LAMP will also deliver many of the elements of the UK's Future Airspace Strategy (FAS).
- 3.2 Nonetheless, the UK is heavily involved in the European project and three of the members of the HETA Rulemaking Group, including the Chairman, are from the UK/Ireland Functional Airspace Block (FAB). Norway has also expressed its desire to work with the UK/Ireland FAB to implement a higher TA at the same time and Norway also has a member on the Rulemaking Group. The first meeting of the Group took place on 5 December 2013 and this will be followed by a further six to eight meetings over the coming months.



Documents

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- 3.3 The Rulemaking Group will then present its findings to the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Director and if the decision is taken to progress with a higher TA, a Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA) would be issued at the beginning of 2015. Therefore, a final decision on the way forward from a European perspective is unlikely to be made before the end of 2015 at the earliest.

4. The UK Position

- 4.1 A decision was made by the FAS Deployment Steering Group in December 2013 to proceed to a second State Consultation on the TA with a CONOPS developed to support a level of 18,000ft.
- 4.2 Whilst this decision to proceed shows the UK's commitment to the delivery of a harmonised TA in the UK of 18,000ft, this will still be subject to the outcome of the second Consultation which is planned for November 2015 through to February 2016.

5. Queries

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

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WC2B 6TE
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6. Cancellation

- 6.1 This Information Notice shall remain in force until 31 May 2014.