

Issued: 11 November 2015

## Consultation for a Harmonised UK Transition Altitude (TA)

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:                        |                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aerodromes:</b>                    | All Aerodrome Operators                                                                    |
| <b>Air Traffic:</b>                   | All ATS                                                                                    |
| <b>Airspace:</b>                      | All NATMAC Representatives & all Approved Instrument Flight Procedure Designers            |
| <b>Airworthiness:</b>                 | Not Primarily Affected                                                                     |
| <b>Flight Operations:</b>             | All AOC Holders, all General Aviation Pilots & all Unmanned Aircraft Operators             |
| <b>Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:</b> | All ATCO/FISO, all Pilots, all Approved Training Organisations & all Maintenance Engineers |

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The CAA will be launching a consultation on 23 November 2015 on a UK-wide harmonised Transition Altitude (TA) of 18,000 ft designed to enhance efficiency, both inside and outside controlled airspace, through standardisation of airspace and altimeter setting procedures. A harmonised TA of 18,000 ft would enable future safety, environmental and economic benefits to be realised through improvements to the vertical profiles of aircraft arrivals and departures in the London and Scottish Flight Information Regions (FIRs). It would also serve as a platform for future airspace and operating concepts through programmes such as Single European Sky (SES), SES Air Traffic Management Research (SESAR), Future Airspace Strategy (FAS) and the UK/Ireland Functional Airspace Block (FAB).

### 2 Scope

- 2.1 This Information Notice is to give stakeholders notice of a CAA consultation on the Concept of Operations for a revised UK Transition Altitude of 18,000 ft. The consultation will take place **between 23 November 2015 and 24 February 2016**.
- 2.2 The CAA first consulted on a harmonised TA in early 2012. Responses to the consultation were generally supportive of a higher TA, however further safety work and a more detailed Concept of Operations (CONOPS) was needed so the technical issues could be addressed in more detail before the final level of the TA could be confirmed. Following an extensive series of simulations, workshops and engagement meetings with a variety of stakeholders, the

CONOPs is considered sufficiently robust to warrant a second consultation. Implementation of an 18,000 ft TA is part of the UK FAS and the consultation will be based on the contents of the CONOPs and the supporting Safety Analysis. The consultation will also ask for feedback from stakeholders regarding the general costs of implementation.

2.3 The TA Consultation Pack will consist of a Consultation Overview Document which will explain the purpose of the consultation and list the basic elements of the rest of the Consultation Pack. The pack will include the latest CONOPs, the State Safety Assurance Report and the Nominal Vertical Separation Minima Final Safety Report to enable stakeholders to fully assess the impact of the change. A list of Commonly Asked Questions and Answers will be included and this will be updated as required during consultation to reflect any new questions which are received. There will be a series of questions for industry stakeholders to help them provide feedback. Respondents will also be asked to give their feedback on the project in general. This information will be used to refine the CONOPs and its assurance papers. The Consultation Document will also explain the process of managing consultation responses leading to the subsequent issue of an Aviation Stakeholder Consultation Feedback Report in Spring 2016.

2.4 This consultation is aimed at aviation industry stakeholders and therefore aviation stakeholders will be invited to:

- Read the on-line TA document set as described above;
- If there is anything in the document set which is not clear, review the list of Commonly Asked Questions and Answers;
- Provide responses to the on-line questions, giving as much relevant information as possible to inform the decision on a harmonised TA at 18,000 ft.

Stakeholders may respond to the consultation by any of the following methods:

- Utilising the on-line survey tool on the TA Consultation webpage on the CAA website: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/transitionaltitude>. This is the preferred method of responding.
- Sending an email to [TAconsultation@caa.co.uk](mailto:TAconsultation@caa.co.uk).
- Writing to: UK State TA Consultation, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE.

All responses must be received by Wednesday 24 February 2016.

### 3 Queries

3.1 Any general 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  
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7453 6551  
E-mail: [clive.grant@caa.co.uk](mailto:clive.grant@caa.co.uk)

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