 ÚDARÁS EITLIÓCHTA NA HéIREANN IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY	SAFETY REGULATION DIVISION	Publication Date: 3rd March 2011
		Close For Comment: 8th April 2011
Request for Comment: EUROCONTROL ENPRM - SES Regulation on 8.33 kHz channel spacing		

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to advise all stakeholders that EUROCONTROL has issued a formal consultation on a Draft Commission Regulation (Implementing Rule) laying down requirements for air-ground voice channels spacing (8.33 kHz) for the Single European Sky. The details of this may be found on http://www.eurocontrol.int/enprm/public/standard_page/enprm_11001.html and the relevant EUROCONTROL consultation documents are also attached hereto, for your convenience.

Comments on this draft regulation must be submitted to EUROCONTROL using the consultation response sheet. Comments should be submitted before 8th April 2011. EUROCONTROL will review all comments received and issue the related Comment Response Document in due course.

Any Irish stakeholder who wishes to provide comments or queries in this regard to the Irish Aviation Authority may use the contacts below. It must be emphasised that comments to the IAA are not be considered part of the formal consultation as the only comments that are formally considered are those directly addressed to EUROCONTROL as stated above.

Comments or queries to the Irish Aviation Authority may be sent to:


Manager Aircraft Registration and Design Control
 Irish Aviation Authority
 Times Building
 11-12 D'Olier Street
 Dublin 2

email: registration@iaa.ie

2. INTRODUCTION

EC Regulation 1265/2007 laying down requirements on Air-Ground Voice Channel Spacing for the Single European Sky has been successfully implemented through the deployment of 8.33 kHz VHF communications in the airspace above Flight Level 195. It is now proposed to extend the application of 8.33 kHz VHF Communications to the remaining airspace below Flight Level 195 for EU Member states, including Ireland. The extension of the rule will consequently affect any aircraft which is equipped with a VHF Communications radio (including helicopters, light aircraft, microlights, gyroplanes, balloons, gliders etc) as well as users of portable or handheld radios.

EUROCONTROL has been mandated by the European Commission to draft the Implementing Rule and to provide the formal consultation on this draft rule using the EUROCONTROL Notice of

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Proposed Rulemaking (ENPRM) process. Using this process, EUROCONTROL provides a draft of the Implementing Rule, along with a document outlining the justification for the rule. All comments must be provided to EUROCONTROL using the consultation response sheet provided.

3. DETAIL

Stakeholders are invited to review the details of this draft Implementing Rule and the justification document and make their considered comments on the draft rule only to EUROCONTROL.

In summary the rule affects new/upgraded radios from one year after the publication date of the rule, IFR flights in Class A, B or C airspace from 1st January 2014, and all radios from 1st January 2018.

The following Articles in the draft Implementing Rule affect the airborne users particularly:

- Article 1(2), 1(4); which specify that the regulation applies to all communications systems in the aeronautical mobile radio communication service band 117.795 to 137 MHz and to all flights operating as general air traffic (GAT)
- Article 3 (1); restates existing requirements for aircraft operating above FL 195
- Article 3(5); ensure that manufacturers only produce 8.33 kHz capable radios from 12 months after the date of publication of the rule
- Article 3(6); this constitutes the forward fit part of the rule, however the terminology used may need to be clarified. The IAA interpretation is that it means that any new aircraft installation, portable or handheld radio must be 8.33 kHz capable from 12 months after the date of publication of the rule.
- Article 3(7); ensures that radio upgrades (defined as different model or part number) must be 8.33 kHz capable from 12 months after the date of publication of the rule.
- Article 3(8); ensures that all aircraft operating under IFR in airspace Class A, B or C must be equipped with 8.33 kHz radios by 1st January 2014.
- Article 3(15); ensures all radios are 8.33 kHz capable from 1st January 2018.
- Article 3(20); ensures all radios also retain 25 kHz spacing and off-set carrier capabilities.
- Article 3(23); specifies equipment performance specifications (ED-23C is preferred but ED-23B is acceptable)
- Article 4; contains procedural requirements
- Article 7 and 8; specify certification and verification requirements. Note that the EC accepts certificates issued by EASA (eg ETSO, STC etc) in this regard as long as they address the applicable interoperability, performance and safety requirements of this rule.

It is also noted that there are no provisions in this draft Implementing Rule for operators of aircraft to seek exemption from this rule.