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CHANNEL SPACING ON AIR-GROUND VHF COMMUNICATIONS

The Irish Aviation Authority, in pursuance of Articles 4,7, 60 and 62 of the Irish Aviation Authority (Operations) Order, 2024 hereby directs that, where not subject to corresponding and applicable provisions under Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, the following shall apply:

- a) An Irish registered aircraft, and an aircraft, wherever registered, when operated by the holder of an Irish Air Operator Certificate and intended to be operated in airspace requiring the use of VHF communication equipment with 8.33 kHz frequency spacing capability, shall be so equipped with the required communications equipment.
- b) An Irish registered aircraft, and an aircraft, wherever registered, when operated by the holder of an Irish Air Operator Certificate and intended to be operated in airspace where existing 25 kHz spaced VHF communication frequencies are used shall be equipped with VHF communication equipment with 25 kHz or 8.33 kHz frequency spacing capability.

Separately, for aircraft which are subject to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139 (the EASA regulation), operators should note that Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2023/1770 mandates that all voice communication equipment put into service after 17 November 2013 includes the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability and is able to tune to 25 kHz spaced channels. An exemption is in place for this requirement until 31 December 2024.

All Operators of aircraft, whether required to be equipped with 8.33 kHz channel spacing capable or not, are reminded that where a flight(s) occurs within or into airspace, or along routes, that have been designated by the competent authority as requiring two-way communication then suitable voice communication equipment shall be used to ensure those two-way communications can be maintained.

Note: Operators of aircraft not subject to the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139 (the EASA regulation) when operating in airspace not requiring two-way communication are not affected by this requirement

The standards for VHF communication equipment are the relevant provisions of ICAO Annex 10 Volume III, EASA CS-ACNS, as amended and applicable EASA ETSO-2C37e, and ETSO-2C38e, or ETSO-2C169a, as amended. Minimum operational performance specifications for 8.33 kHz and 25 kHz spaced airborne VHF communication equipment are contained in EUROCAE document ED-23, as amended.

This Notice replaces Aeronautical Notice O.5 at Issue 8 which should be discarded.

Chief Executive Irish Aviation Authority