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OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT

NAVIGATION AND LANDING AIDS

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS 1997, AS AMENDED, TO
INCLUDE 406MHz AS AN OPERATING FREQUENCY
FOR EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTERS.**

1. Introduction and Motivation

ICAO Annex 6 has recently been amended to provide for the 406MHz frequency, which provides the following advantages:

- (a) The 406MHz transmitter produces a digital message to a satellite system, which provides accurate position information, typically 1 to 2 km. It also allows the search and rescue authorities worldwide to contact the owner/operator of the aircraft through a database.
- (b) A facility exists in Cape Town to receive the 406MHz signals enabling a rapid response and identification of the aircraft. This Authority recommends that the 406MHz frequency becomes the standard due to the cost benefits regarding search and rescue.

**2. Proposed Change:
Regulation 91.04.26
Add:**

- (3) **The Commissioner shall maintain a register of all aircraft equipped with 406MHz ELT's. The register shall contain the following particulars:**
 - (a) **The nationality and registration marks of the aircraft;**
 - (b) **Particulars of the manufacturer's designation and serial number of the aircraft;**
 - (c) **The full name and contact details of the registered owner of the aircraft;**
 - (d) **ELT Manufacturer and Model Number;**
 - (e) **15 Digit Unique Identification Number (UIN), provided by the Manufacturer, or**
 - (f) **The Aircraft Mode S transponder code;**
 - (g) **Person who knows the aircraft's itinerary, and may be contacted 24 hours a day.**
- (4) **An excerpt of the ELT register shall be furnished by the Commissioner, on the payment of the appropriate fee as prescribed in Part 187, to any person who may request such an excerpt.**

**3. Proposed Change:
Regulation 187.00.11A
Add:**

- (j) **for a copy of the ELT register (R1-00 per page up to a maximum of R100-00)**

**4. Proposed Change:
(SA-CATS-OPS 91.04.26)
Add bold text:**

- 1. *Distress frequencies*

*An owner or operator must ensure that the automatic emergency locator transmitter (ELT) is capable of transmitting on the distress frequencies of 121.5MHz, 243MHz **and 406MHz**, except where the whole of a proposed flight is within an area where, for such search and rescue purposes, only one of these frequencies is required, the use of that single frequency may be specifically authorised, if so agreed by the authority responsible for search and rescue in the area concerned.*

5. **Industry comment.**

Industry comment regarding the above is invited within the next two months and should be addressed to:

*Civil Aviation Regulations Committee
South African Civil Aviation Authority
Private Bag X08
Waterkloof 0145*

In due course this will be published for comment in the Government Gazette.

COMMISSIONER FOR CIVIL AVIATION

