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Requirements for the next phase of 8.33 KHZ voice channel spacing implementation in Budapest FIR according to the Commission Implementing Regulation 1079/2012.

Following the information published in AIC 003/2014 (dated 01-JUL-2014) and AIC 006/2014 (dated 28-OCT-2014) this AIC contains additional guidance information for the awareness of aircraft operators, airspace users and air navigation service providers regarding the changes to be implemented in Budapest FIR related to 8.33 KHZ channel spacing capable on-board radio carriage requirements and radio channel conversions of the services operating in Budapest FIR.

For detailed information and specific requirements in terms of aircraft equipage, airspace characteristics and associated exemptions please consult the Aeronautical Information Publication (Effective date: 06 DEC 2018) available at:

URL: <http://ais.hungarocontrol.hu/aip/>

1. Introduction

In response to the increasing VHF frequency congestion, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1079/2012 (further on IR) lays down requirements for voice channel spacing for the Single European Sky in the EUR region.

The IR requires the mandatory

- 8.33 KHZ capable on-board radio equipage and
- conversion of all the present 25 KHZ channel spacing frequencies of aeronautical ground services (with exemptions notified by Hungary to the European Commission) operating within Budapest FIR to 8.33 KHZ channel spacing radio channels with deadline 31. December 2018.

2. Operators

An operator shall not operate an aircraft in airspace where carriage of radio and continuous radio communication is required within Budapest FIR unless the aircraft radio equipment has the 8.33 KHZ channel spacing capability (see ENR 1.4. of the AIP with effective date 06 DEC 2018.).

3. Air Navigation Service Providers

Providers of aeronautical ground services operating on dedicated frequencies published in chapters AD 1.3 and AD 2 of the AIP shall implement and ensure voice communication on these dedicated 8.33 KHZ radio channels (previously coordinated with ICAO and notified accordingly the individual service providers by the Civil Aviation Authority) by 06. December 2018.

Providers of aeronautical ground services operating on radio channels not published in chapters AD 1.3 and AD 2 of the AIP (e.g. operating on National Light Aviation radio channels published in chapter ENR 1.1 of the AIP) shall contact the Civil Aviation Authority for consultation.

4. Integrated Initial Flight Plan Processing System (IFPS)

From 06. December 2018. IFPS extends existing verification of the flight plans for 8.33 KHZ capable equipment carriage for all IFR/GAT flights operating within Budapest FIR (not depending on flight altitudes).

For flights planned to operate in Budapest FIR after 06. December 2018. the following apply:

1. Letter 'Y' shall be inserted in field 10 of the flight plan, for aircraft equipped with 8.33 KHZ capable radio equipment; or
2. For state aircraft not equipped with 8.33 KHZ capable radio equipment but equipped with UHF radio, letters 'U' and 'Z' shall be inserted in item 10a of the flight plan together with 'COM/EXM833' remark in field 18.

5. Exemptions

Specific provisions related to special purpose flights are published in the AIP Chapter ENR 1.8.

Temporary exemption is granted for State aircraft from operating 8.33 KHZ channel spacing radio equipment in Budapest FIR on condition that such flights establish and maintain two way radio communication with the appropriate ATS Unit on dedicated VHF frequency with 25 KHZ channel spacing or on UHF frequency.

In addition to exempted state aircraft, exemption from the 8.33 KHZ channel spacing capable radio equipment requirement is granted for those flights operating for special missions listed below. These flights are required to include the following remark(s) in the filed 18 of the FPL

- STS/SAR
- STS/HOSP
- STS/FFR
- STS/MEDEVAC.

6. Additional information

The complete content of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1079/2012, laying down requirements for voice channel spacing for the Single European Sky can be consulted at:

URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1429091660424&uri=CELEX:32012R1079>

Additional information regarding the 8.33 KHZ channel spacing for VHF voice communication below FL 195 in English language are available via the EUROCONTROL website:

URL: <https://www.eurocontrol.int/services/vhf-833-khz>

For more details regarding the flight planning requirements see the IFPS User's manual section 47. referring to 8.33 KHZ channel spacing:

URL: <https://www.eurocontrol.int/sites/default/files/content/documents/nm/network-operations/HANDBOOK/ifps-users-manual-current.pdf>

Any queries and further guidance required as a result of this AIC should be addressed to:

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