

## Safety Information Bulletin

Airworthiness – Operations

**SIB No.: 2024-01R1**

**Issued: 31 January 2024**

**Subject: Use of Mobile Telephony on Aircraft**

**Revision:**

This SIB revises EASA SIB 2024-01 dated 17 January 2024.

**Ref. Publications:**

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) [2022/2324](#) dated 23 November 2022.

**Applicability:**

Aircraft operators operating in the airspace of the EU Member States offering Mobile Communication on Aircraft (MCA) services allowing Transmitting Portable Electronic Devices (T-PEDs) to connect with an MCA base station on the aircraft.

**Description:**

In November 2022, the European Commission published Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2324 amending Decision 2008/294/EC to allow aircraft operators to offer MCA services using 5G technology to passengers.

Through this decision, the following frequency bands have become available for use by 5G-capable T-PEDs on aircraft in the European Union, in addition to other frequency bands which had previously been available for MCA services using GSM, UMTS and LTE in accordance with amended Commission Decision 2008/294/EC:

- 1 710-1 785 MHz (uplink)
- 1 805-1 880 MHz (downlink)

The 5G standards however, allow the use of other frequency bands too, including the 3.6 GHz (3.4 – 3.8 GHz) mid-band, which is subject of concerns of potential interference with radio altimeters installed on aircraft. The use of this frequency band should be prevented. This may be done through the installation on an aircraft of a Network Controller Unit (NCU).

This SIB is revised to update recommendations by adding reference for non-commercial air operations with complex aeroplanes.

At this time, the safety concern described in this SIB is not considered to be an unsafe condition that would warrant Airworthiness Directive (AD) action under Regulation (EU) [748/2012](#), Part 21.A.3B, or would warrant the issuance of an operational directive under Regulation (EU) [965/2012](#), Annex II, ARO.GEN.135(c).

This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.



**Recommendation(s):**

- Operators offering MCA services should ensure that transmissions of T-PEDs in the 3.6 GHz band are prevented through the use of an NCU.
- Operators are reminded to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the AMC [CAT.GEN.MPA.140](#) of Annex IV, or the AMC1 [NCC.GEN.130](#) of Annex VI of Commission Regulation (EU) [965/2012](#) on air operations, regarding the use of Portable Electronic Devices (PED) on board of the aircraft.
- Operators are reminded to ensure strict compliance with the technical parameters, including the operational requirement, defined in the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2324.

**Contact(s):**

For further information, contact the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate, E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu).

W I T H D R A W N

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