

To all customers

Ihr Zeichen/Nachricht

Michael Frost

Unser Zeichen

MF

Durchwahl Telefon

08246 96990

Durchwahl Telefax

08246 10 49

Datum

01.09.2008

EASA AD No.: 2008-0158

On 21/8/2008, EASA published an AD affecting all Funkwerk Avionics GmbH (Filsler) transponders.

With the following statement, we would like to explain the situation and highlight the next steps.

Firstly: The Reason for the AD is an occasional intermission of the Mode S visibility of Funkwerk (Filsler) transponders, that occurs more frequently in different regions. It can be observed that the malfunction reports are particularly frequent in the London area. Here is an extract from an email I received on 6 Aug 2008:

"The Transponder works quite well in Germany and Austria, but it continues to cause problems in England and Switzerland. It was terrible two weeks ago above London! ATC only recognized me as a primary target. Not really much fun in the busy airspace above London".

In this situation, EASA had no other choice but to publish an AD and thereby ensure flight safety. However, in this AD, EASA made it clear that it is possible for ANSPs to give approval for the use of the transponder in the respective areas of responsibility. This is based on the fact that the transponders work faultlessly in mode A/C, and thus safe air traffic is possible. Mode S is being trialled particularly in London and surroundings, therefore faults are noticed quickly there.

Against this background, we are working to obtain the respective approvals from as many ANSPs as possible to avoid unnecessary grounding of planes.

Funkwerk Avionics GmbH

Gewerbestraße 2
D-86875 Waal

Telefon +49 (0) 8246-9699-0
Telefax +49 (0) 8246-1049
eMail info@funkwerk-avionics.com
Internet www.funkwerk-avionics.com

Amtsgericht Kempten
HRB 5360
Ust.-IdNr. DE 128 668 279
Steuer-Nr. 125/126/40093

Geschäftsführung
Michael Frost
Dr. Thomas Wittig

Sparkasse Landsberg
BLZ 700 520 60
Konto 190 363

BIC BYLADEM1LLD
IBAN DE2270052060000190363

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We have been working to find a solution non-stop since emergence of the AD. Unfortunately it is not an easy thing to detect fault and thorough step by step analysis is required.. According to our information and airborne experience, the transponders work largely without fault in Germany, including in Mode S mode.

What happens next? In addition to the lab measurements, we are preparing calibration flights and other steps to get to the bottom of this. As soon as we have results, we will publish a Service Bulletin, which will list the necessary arrangements.

We understand that our customers are worried because of these developments. We promise you that we will work on this as quickly as possible and do everything possible to rectify the problem. We ask you not to send us individual questions until the Service Bulletin has been published, since we will not be able to respond to them all in large numbers. We ask for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Frost
Managing Director
Funkwerk Avionics GMBH