

Media release

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ADS-B approval process altered as roll-out continues

Airservices is now providing enhanced separation services to all aircraft fitted with Automatic Dependant Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B Out) technology operating outside of radar coverage.

The move follows changes to the approval process that previously required individual aircraft operators to apply to receive an ADS-B service, and brings the process into line with that required for almost all other avionics and aircraft systems.

ADS-B is a satellite-based technology enabling aircraft to be accurately tracked by air traffic controllers and other pilots without the need for conventional radar.

Whilst individual aircraft approvals will no longer be required, operators must ensure that ADS-B transmissions comply with Civil Aviation Orders and that flight crews are adequately trained to operate the ADS-B equipment.

Australia's aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), requires ADS-B transmissions to be disabled before flight if the aircraft's avionics are not compliant.

"Whilst responsibility for ensuring aircraft meet the CASA regulations when operating in Australian airspace rests with the operators, Airservices will retain the capability to suspend ADS-B services for any aircraft known to be not complying," said Greg Dunstone, Airservices ADS-B Program Manager.

"This is another step on our path to continue the roll-out of the technology in Australian airspace and we continue to urge airlines and operators to fit their aircraft with ADS-B ahead of a mandated fitment deadline of 12 December 2013. It is then that ADS-B will be required for flight in Australian airspace at and above 29,000 feet (FL290)."

With just over a year to go for the FL290 requirement, 289 of 424 major Australian airliner aircraft (that operate at or above 29,000 feet) have already been fitted with ADS-B Out capability. Airservices is also seeing over 70 per cent of all international flights flying in its flight information region getting the ADS-B service as well as 58 per cent of domestic flights operating above 28,000 feet.

ADS-B delivers both environmental and economic benefits for industry and the travelling public by providing improved access to preferred routes and flight levels, more efficient diversions around restricted areas and weather and increased accuracy of navigation.

Further information on ADS-B and future mandated requirements can be found on Airservices website at www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/ads-b

For media inquiries contact Airservices Media on (02) 6257 2828 or by emailing media@airservicesaustralia.com. Images of ADS-B ground stations are available for download at <http://newsroom.airservicesaustralia.com> (registration required).