

IS-BAO Bulletin 2010-1

Subject – IS-BAO Standard 8.14. – Flight Data Recorders and Cockpit Voice Recorders

Issue

IS-BAO Standard 8.14.2 states a requirement that:

“All aeroplanes for which the individual certificate of airworthiness was first issued on or after January 1, 2005 that have a maximum certificated take-off mass of over 5 700 kg shall be equipped with a Type IA flight data recorder.”

This requirement is specified in ICAO Annex 6 Parts I and Part II and has existed for a number of years. Recently some auditors have reported that some US registered aircraft do not meet this requirement, but do meet the requirements of CFR Part 91, and/or Part 135.

Discussion

CFR Part 91, and/or Part 135 specify this type of flight data recorder (FDR) only for aircraft with more than 9 seats. From information provided it would appear that the aircraft manufacturer has advised that they are not easily able to provide and install FDRs that meet the requirements of Annex 6 and the IS-BAO. This issue has resulted in the generation of Minor Non-Conformances in IS-BAO registration audits and has left the operators in a position where it is very difficult to develop an appropriate corrective action plan.

Decision

Upon consideration of the dilemma faced by such operators it has been agreed that one possible solution would be for those operators to include a provision in their Operations Manual whereby such non-conforming aircraft would be restricted to operations within US Airspace except when the operator has obtained prior permission from the State in whose airspace the aircraft will operate.

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