



Civil Aviation Safety Authority Suriname

# CASAS Advisory Pamphlet

**Subject: EUR RVSM HEIGHT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

**CASAS CAP-012**

**Date: 10-06-2004**

## EUR RVSM POST-IMPLEMENTATION HEIGHT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

### 1. GENERAL

1.1 This Advisory Pamphlet provides important information regarding the height monitoring requirements in the context of EUR RVSM.

### 2. EUR RVSM POST IMPLEMENTATION SAFETY CASE

2.1 The EUR RVSM **Pre**-implementation Safety Case was required to allow implementation of RVSM in EUR RVSM airspace. In order to address actual safety levels with RVSM in operation and confirmation of pre-implementation assumptions, two EUR RVSM **Post**-implementation Safety Cases were foreseen for issue in December 2002 and in December 2004.

2.2 The Post-implementation Safety Case has the same data requirements as for Pre-implementation. Therefore, aircraft operators are required to continue participating in the ongoing monitoring activities. This may include the need for re-monitoring of aircraft that already were monitored as part of the pre-implementation monitoring activities. As this safety monitoring activity is considered of high importance in the context of safety of operations in EUR RVSM airspace, non-participation can result in the withdrawal of RVSM approval.

2.3 The monitoring requirement as set out below is, in its current form, applicable for EUR RVSM operations, specifically to fulfil the requirements for the EUR RVSM Post-implementation Safety Cases. However, activities are under way to harmonise the detailed (pre- and post implementation) monitoring requirements globally. The monitoring requirement as detailed does not contradict the evolving global requirement.

### 3. EUR RVSM POST IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING REQUIREMENT

3.1 In order to have sufficient confidence in safety assessment results, sufficient monitoring data is required. This data was needed to be available from Sept 2002 which allowed for timely processing for the first Post-implementation Safety Case.

3.2 Where possible available pre-implementation data will be used to meet the data requirements. However, due to the potential changes to altimetry performance over time, there is a limitation on the age of data that can be used for the assessments. This will lead to the need to obtain new data and may result in the requirement for re-monitoring of certain aircraft types and airframes.

3.3 A number of operators have not yet met the monitoring requirements that were set prior to implementation of RVSM. These operators will need to participate as a matter of high priority to the post-implementation monitoring activities.

3.4 Consequently, there is a requirement for ongoing participation by aircraft operators in the post-implementation monitoring programme. Most data will be obtained through monitoring by the existing ground based Height Monitoring Units (HMUs, see §4.1). Where overflight of an HMU is not practicable, the required data can be obtained by the use of a GPS Height Monitoring Unit (GMU). This requires the active participation of the operator in carrying the GMU on the flight deck.

3.5 Since much of the data is obtained automatically, no specific action is required from operators unless they are approached by the Regional Monitoring Agency (RMA), i.e. either by EUROCONTROL or by a company contracted by EUROCONTROL. Where such an approach is made, the operator is required to co-operate, either by arranging a special flight to overfly an HMU or by agreeing to the carriage of the GMU. In case an operator fails to co-operate, action will be taken to withdraw the RVSM approval of the aircraft and/or operator in question. This approach is required, given the direct importance of post-implementation monitoring for the safety of RVSM operations.

3.6 For aircraft operator specific information, such as how many of his/her aircraft of a particular aircraft type needs be monitored and within what time frame, the operator may contact the RMA (see §6).

## 4. POST-IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING PROCEDURES

### 4.1 Monitoring Systems

4.1.1 The EUR RVSM monitoring system consists of Ground Based Height Monitoring Units (**HMU**) which collect the majority of data and was supplemented upto the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2003 by portable GPS Monitoring Units (**GMUs**). These systems are described briefly below.

4.1.2 The **HMU** is a passive ground based system which measures aircraft height keeping over an approximately circular area . Each system consists of a set of ground stations arranged as a central site with four additional receivers arranged in a square. Each site receives aircraft SSR replies (Modes A, C and S) from which the 3D position of the aircraft is derived. Using meteorological information and the Mode C/S height data the altimetry system error is calculated. The HMUs are operating at the following locations:

- a) Linz in Austria [centre 48°12'N, 014°18'E]
- b) Nattenheim in Germany [centre 49°57'N, 006°28'E]
- c) Geneva in Switzerland [centre 46°22'N, 005°56'E]

*Note 1: The existing HMU's as developed and implemented in the context of NAT RVSM (such as the HMU near Strumble, Wales) is also available for monitoring.*

4.1.3 ATS route segments within HMU coverage can be determined by considering a circle with 45 NM radius around the centre co-ordinates given above. Up-to-date information can be obtained from the RMA (see §6).

4.1.4 The **GMU** is a portable carry-on recording system. Using antennas fitted to the rear flight deck windows using suction pads, it can receive and record the GPS data which, together with ground station differential corrections provides accurate 3D aircraft positions. The GMU is totally self contained and does not need to be connected to any aircraft systems. The system installation and subsequent removal can be accomplished during a normal turn round period.

4.1.5 The unit was produced to meet aircraft equipment standards and was accompanied with the appropriate documentation to allow on-board carriage and use in all phases of flight. On the basis of the LBA (Germany) equipment qualification and as supported by the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA), the GMU were installed on board the aircraft without further technical investigation or approval provided that the instructions and precautions given in Installation Manual AD-GMU-110 were observed.

4.1.6 The continued provision of GMU monitoring after 31 December 2002 by EUROCONTROL was under discussion and it is presently unknown if height-keeping monitoring utilizing this equipment is still possible.

## **4.2 Organisation of Monitoring Activities**

4.2.1 On behalf of ICAO, the EUROCONTROL Agency acts as "Regional Monitoring Agency" (RMA). The information which will be obtained through the monitoring programme on aircraft compliance status and measured height keeping performance will be combined with the information available from monitoring agencies in other regions.

4.2.2 The RMA will support operators and approval authorities on any issue related to RVSM approval and monitoring. The RMA will require information on the aircraft which are intended to operate in EUR RVSM airspace, and which therefore will need to be monitored on a periodic basis as part of the continuing safety assessment. To this end, the RMA will also be in contact with State approval authorities. The RMA is based at the EUROCONTROL Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

4.2.3 The RMA will ensure the continuous operation of the monitoring systems and will manage the measured height keeping performance data. The RMA will identify any height deviations that are outside the specifications of the ICAO RVSM performance requirements, and will follow-up as required.

4.2.4 The portable GPS Monitoring Units (GMUs) were operated by GMU operators contracted by EUROCONTROL. After initial agreement between the RMA and aircraft operators as to which airframe(s) needed to be monitored by GMU, the aircraft operator was contacted by the GMU operator to agree on arrangements for the monitoring flight. Based on those arrangements, the GMU operator dealt with installation and operation of the GMU on board of the aircraft. As noted previously, the continuation of this arrangement after 31 December 2002 was under discussion and the results thereof are unknown at present.

## **4.3 General Monitoring Procedures**

4.3.1 This section describes the different steps required to fulfil the EUR RVSM monitoring requirements. The procedures have been developed with the objective to make the monitoring as transparent as possible to aircraft operators. These procedures are different from the pre-implementation monitoring procedures.

*1.* For aircraft and operators that are already RVSM approved and operating in EUR RVSM airspace, the RMA will have received the aircraft details from the State Authority. The RMA

will establish the monitoring requirement based on this information and on existing height monitoring data.

- II.** For new aircraft and operator RVSM approvals, the operator will need to follow the approval procedure established on the basis of the Surinamese requirements for RVSM approval, which is based on , ICAO requirements, JAA TGL6 Rev1 and the Interim Guidance Material on the Approval of Operators/Aircraft for RVSM Operations No. 91-RVSM. After RVSM approval is issued, the CASAS will provide the relevant information to the RMA. Aircraft RVSM approval information is exchanged between the different RMAs.
- III.** Operators are to inform CASAS of any aircraft they intend to remove from their fleet of RVSM approved aircraft. CASAS will then pass this information to the RMA.
- IV.** Operators that regularly operate aircraft within the coverage of the HMUs (see §4.1), are expected to fulfil the monitoring requirements for those aircraft during the course of their day-to-day operations.
- V.** Based on the aircraft and operator information held by the EUR RMA, the RMA will:
  - identify the need for monitoring of airframes to meet the monitoring requirements, taking into account available monitoring data for these airframes, including the age of that data;
  - establish whether the required data will be obtained through HMU monitoring without the need for a notification to the operator, or whether the operator should be contacted to ensure monitoring takes place;
  - if required, contact the operator to establish if there is a need for specific action to enable the monitoring to take place. The RMA will consult the operator for possibilities to overfly an HMU during check flights, during transiting to/from the operator's maintenance facility or through making a practicable deviation from any intended flight.
- VI.** For a successful measurement by an HMU, it is required that the aircraft is in level flight for approximately 5 minutes, between FL290 and FL410 (inclusive) within the coverage of the HMU.
- VII.** Where the aircraft is not expected to overfly one of the HMUs, the RMA will ask the operator to co-operate for a GMU monitoring flight if still available. Based on the agreement, arrangements will be made for the GMU operator to install and operate the system on a suitable flight in the European airspace. The GMU operator, on behalf of the RMA, will contact the operator to agree GMU flight details. The GMU operator will be responsible for installation of the GMU on the flight deck. Whether the GMU operator will stay with the GMU during the measurements, is subject to the agreement with the aircraft operator.
- VIII.** If the EUR GMU is to be used for monitoring, the flight must be undertaken in the ECAC Area due to the availability of accurate meteorological data. The continued provision of GMU monitoring by EUROCONTROL is still under discussion. If the GMU of the North Atlantic and Asia Pacific RMA are to be used, the operator should contact those RMAs for specific information on the areas in which these GMUs can operate.

*Note: The preferred method for monitoring is considered to be overflying an HMU, given the advantages of this method of monitoring compared to GMU monitoring in terms of, amongst others, operator involvement and turn-around time. For GMU monitoring, results are expected to take at least one week from the execution of the monitoring flight.*

- IX.** Operators may consult the EUROCONTROL RVSM Web Site ([www.eur-rvsm.com](http://www.eur-rvsm.com)) or the contact RMA (see contact details §6) to ascertain that the information stored about the aircraft is correct and to identify whether the aircraft have been monitored and acceptable performance has been demonstrated.
- X.** States might restrict RVSM approval (i.e. issue an “interim” approval) to ensure monitoring occurs within a defined period after granting the approval. Where such a restriction is placed upon the operation, the RMA should be provided with the aircraft and operator details as soon as possible to ensure the monitoring can occur within the required time scale.
- XI.** If aberrant or anomalous height keeping performance on an individual airframe is measured which is deemed to require follow-up, the RMA will contact the operator to address the issue. This may require further follow up through CASAS.
- XII.** If an aircraft type or group of types does not appear to meet the ICAO group performance requirements, the RMA will follow up with the Manufacturer (the Type Certificate Holder) and their State Authority. Resulting actions by the State Authority may include withdrawal of certification of the type/group RVSM solution.

4.3.2 It is important for the RMA to have an accurate record of points of contact for aircraft operators, in order to exchange information on monitoring requirements, and for follow-up in case of anomalous height keeping performance. Operators are therefore requested to include a completed **USC Form 2** with their first reply to the RMA. Thereafter there is no further requirement unless there has been a change to the details requested on the form.

*Note: USC Form 1 has been withdrawn as a means for the operator to notify the RMA when an aircraft is eligible for monitoring. For post-implementation monitoring, the approval notification by the State Authority to the RMA will fulfil this purpose. However, there may be individual cases where the operator will be requested for airframe details by using USC Form 1.*

## **5. GLOBAL LONG TERM MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

5.1 As indicated in section 3, the monitoring requirement in section 4 of this AIC was aimed at meeting the performance data requirements for the EUR RVSM Post-implementation safety cases, which was planned for December 2002 and December 2004. However, ICAO already identified the need for ongoing monitoring to ensure the safety objectives continue to be met and to ensure the continued maintenance of height keeping performance of approved aircraft. This longer term monitoring is seen to be essential for the ongoing safety of RVSM operations.

5.2 The detailed global long-term monitoring requirements are still to be established, but they will almost certainly include the need for maintaining up to date performance data thus some periodic re-monitoring will be required. This monitoring requirement will be kept to the minimum subject to meeting the above objectives, to reduce any burden on aircraft operators. It is expected that most data will continue to be obtained during normal operations using the HMUs. However, as it is essential to obtain the performance data to establish the safety of operations, aircraft operators will be required to co-operate when so requested. This co-operation with the RMA will be enforced through the State Authority.

5.3 The EUR RVSM post-implementation monitoring requirement outlined in section 3 is defined in such a way that is not out of conformance with the evolving global long term monitoring requirements.

## 6. GENERAL

6.1 For more information on monitoring and associated subjects, please contact:

**CASAS Flight Operations department**

**TEL.: (597) 434 186, 434286**

**FAX.: (597) 434 371**

**E-mail.: [casasops@casas.sr](mailto:casasops@casas.sr).**

or

EUROCONTROL (currently acting as RMA in the context of EUR RVSM):

AMN User Support Cell (USC)

Tel +32-2-729-3785

Fax +32-2-729-4634

Email [amn.user.support@eurocontrol.int](mailto:amn.user.support@eurocontrol.int)

More information on EUR RVSM aspects, can be found on [www.eur-rvsm.com](http://www.eur-rvsm.com)

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