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SCOTTISH FLIGHT INFORMATION SERVICE - INTRODUCTION OF SSR CODE 7401

1 Background

1.1 In order to prevent and to mitigate the consequences of airspace incursions, pilots receiving a Flight Information Service (FIS) from 'Scottish Information' on 119.875 MHz, may be requested to squawk SSR code 7401. Any radar equipped ATS unit observing an aircraft which is displaying this code, and which is likely to infringe their airspace, may contact Scottish Information for flight details and request transfer to their ATC frequency in order that the situation can be resolved. Pilots should note that the use of this code does **not** mean that a radar service is being provided by Scottish Information; Scottish Information does not have a radar display; it provides a **non-radar service**.

2 Normal Procedure

2.1 When it is established that a pilot will receive a FIS, Scottish Information will inform pilots:

'(aircraft callsign), squawk 7401, Flight Information Service'

Pilots making very short calls and requests to Scottish Information, for example to receive a weather report, will not be required to select this code.

When the Flight Information Service is concluded, Scottish Information will inform pilots:

'(aircraft callsign) squawk 7000 (or other SSR as appropriate), contact/freecall(ATC callsign-frequency)'

2.2 If communication is lost or the aircraft leaves the Scottish Information frequency, pilots should deselect code 7401 and select code 7000 (or other suitable code). The assignment of code 7401 does not imply the provision of a radar service and the code and any associated mode C must be considered, by observing units, to be invalid and unverified.

3 ATC Procedure for dealing with potential/actual airspace incursion

3.1 When a radar controller observes an aircraft displaying a 7401 code, under circumstances where an airspace violation is, or is about to be, occurring, he/she may contact Scottish Information to attempt to identify the aircraft and arrange for it to be transferred to his/her frequency, if necessary.

4 Scottish Information Action

4.1 Under such circumstances the Scottish Flight Information Service Officer (FISO), acting on the instructions of the relevant ATC controller, will assist in the identification and transfer of the aircraft. The RTF procedure to be used by the FISO will take the following or similar form:

'(aircraft callsign) instruction from (ATC unit) squawk ident'

followed by:

'(aircraft callsign) at (ATC unit) request contact (ATC unit and frequency) immediately'

4.2 When the ATC controller has resolved the situation the aircraft may return to the Scottish Information frequency and, if an SSR code change has been made, may again be requested to squawk SSR code 7401.

Note: It should be noted that this instruction only applies to aircraft receiving a Flight Information Service from the FISO at Scottish Information on frequency 119.875 MHz. Aircraft receiving FIS from Scottish ACC on 127.275 MHz, 124.500 MHz or 129.225 MHz should squawk 7000 or any code designated by the Air Traffic Controller whom may use his/her radar-derived information to assist his/her task.

This Circular is issued for information, guidance and necessary action.