

Subject: **Controller Pilot Data Link Communications over Very High Frequency Data Link Mode 2 – Airborne Multi-Frequency Capability**

Ref. Publications:

Commission Regulation [\(EC\) 29/2009](#) dated 16 January 2009 (as amended by Commission Implementing Regulation [\(EU\) 441/2014](#) dated 30 April 2014, Commission Implementing Regulation [\(EU\) 2015/310](#) dated 26 February 2015 and Commission Implementing Regulation [\(EU\) 2019/1170](#) dated 08 July 2019).

Applicability:

Operators of aircraft equipped with datalink installations over very high frequency data link (VDL) Mode 2 that operate in the Single European Sky airspace.

Description:

The purpose of this SIB is to advise operators of the requirement concerning multi-frequency capability of their datalink installation and their compliance with the Commission Regulations referenced above.

VDL Mode 2 is sub network that connects the aircraft systems to air navigation service provider systems for the provision of Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC). This sub network also enables the provision of airline data, e.g. airline operational communication, maintenance, etc. In order to support the overall effectiveness of communication, additional frequencies have been implemented within the ground systems. These additional frequencies can only be used if aircraft systems can be automatically tuned to the deployed frequencies. The airborne autotune/multi-frequency capability constitutes a key minimum feature needed to provide the required level of data link service to support CPDLC. Aircraft that cannot be transferred to other frequencies have a negative impact on the performance and capacity of the sub network.

The airborne multi-frequency capability is required through Article 6 ‘Obligations of operators for data link communications’ of Commission Regulation (EC) 29/2009, through links to Annex IV Part B, referencing Annex III point 5, further referencing ICAO Annex 10 Volume III, where “autotune” capability (also known as multi-frequency) is addressed.

Although the overall responsibility for compliance with the Commission Regulation (EC) 29/2009, as amended, stays with the operators, Type Certificate Holders and Supplemental Type Certificate Holders should support the operators during data link multi-frequency verifications, as needed.

This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.



At this time, the safety concern described in this SIB is not considered to be an unsafe condition that would warrant any Airworthiness Directive (AD) action under Regulation (EU) [748/2012](#), Part 21.A.3B, nor an operational directive under Commission Regulation (EU) [965/2012](#), Annex II, ARO.GEN.135(c), nor any safety directive under Commission Regulation (EU) [1034/2011](#), Article 13.

EASA is continuing to monitor the situation and further actions may be considered to limit or to prohibit non multi-frequency CPDLC operations.

Recommendation(s):

1. Operators should verify that their aircraft are equipped with an autotune/multi-frequency capable VDL Mode 2 system. If their data link system is not autotune/multi-frequency capable, compliance with the Commission Regulations referenced above is not achieved. Those affected operators are highly recommended to upgrade their data link system as soon as possible.
2. Operators that have elected to use CPDLC in accordance with the Commission Regulations referenced above should verify that the affected aircraft have an autotune/multi-frequency capable data link system. Where the data link system does not have autotune/multi-frequency capability, operators are highly recommended to upgrade their data link system as soon as possible.
3. Operators of aircraft using VDL Mode 2 for transmission of data other than CPDLC, are highly encouraged to upgrade their data link systems to ensure multi-frequency capability.

Contact(s):

For further information contact the EASA Programming and Continued Airworthiness Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.

This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.

