

**Contact**

Post: Air Traffic Control the Netherlands  
Aeronautical Information Service  
P.O. Box 75200  
1117 ZT Schiphol  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 (0)20 406 3521  
Fax: +31 (0)20 406 3532  
AFS: EHAAYOYX

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## 8.33 KHZ CHANNEL SPACING BELOW FL 195

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport Air Traffic Management Department draws the intention of airspace users of the Amsterdam FIR below FL 195 to the introduction of 8.33 kHz channel spacing and the publication of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1079/2012 of 16 November 2012, laying down requirements for voice channels spacing for the Single European Sky in EN L 320/16 Official Journal of the European Union 17.11.2012.

### 2 OBLIGATIONS OF OPERATORS FOLLOWING EC 1079/2012

1. An operator shall not operate an aircraft above FL 195 unless the aircraft radio equipment has the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability.
2. From 1 January 2014 an operator shall not operate an aircraft flying under instrument flight rules (IFR) in airspace class A, B or C in the Amsterdam FIR unless the aircraft radio equipment has the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability, as the Netherlands is one of the Member States listed in Annex I to EC 1079/2012.
3. With regard to the carriage requirements of 8.33 kHz channel spacing radio equipment identified in paragraph 2 (above), an operator shall not operate an aircraft flying under visual flight rules (VFR) in areas operating in 8.33 kHz channel spacing, unless the aircraft radio equipment has the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability.
4. Without prejudice to Article 2(5), from 1 January 2018 an operator shall not operate an aircraft in airspace where carriage of radio is required unless the aircraft radio equipment has the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability.

### 3 INTEROPERABILITY AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS OF RADIO EQUIPMENT

1. Manufacturers of radios intended to operate in the VHF band, or their authorised representatives established in the Union, shall ensure that from 17 November 2013 all radios placed on the market, are 8.33 kHz channel spacing capable.
2. Air navigation service providers, operators and other users or owners of radios shall ensure that all radio equipment put into service from 17 November 2013, includes the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability.
3. Member States shall ensure that aircraft for which the individual certificates of airworthiness or individual flight permits are first issued in the Union from 17 November 2013 and have a radio equipment requirement, are fitted with radios having the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability.
4. Air navigation service providers, operators and other users or owners of radios shall ensure that from 17 November 2013 their radios include the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability whenever they are subject to radio upgrades.
5. Member States shall ensure that by 31 December 2017 at the latest all radios have the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability with the exception of ground radios operated by air navigation service providers.
6. In addition to 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability, the equipment referred to in paragraphs 1-5 shall be able to tune to 25 kHz spaced channels.
7. Users or owners of ground radios having the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability shall ensure that the performance of these radios and the transmitter/receiver ground constituent complies with the ICAO standards specified in point 1 of Annex II to EC 1079/2012.
8. Users or owners of aircraft radio equipment having the 8.33 kHz channel spacing capability shall ensure that the performance of these radios comply with the ICAO standards specified in point 2 of Annex II to EC 1079/2012.

### 4 BACKGROUND

The introduction of the 8.33 kHz channel spacing is a result of the need for more facilities in the aviation channels. Additional channels are for instance required for air traffic control or ATIS.

Since 7 October 1999 the use of a radio with 8.33 kHz channel spacing is mandatory in the European airspace above FL 245.

Since 15 March 2007 it is mandatory above FL 195.

From 1 January 2014 the implementation of 8.33 kHz channel spacing will commence in the Amsterdam FIR according to EC regulation 1079/2012 as published in the Official Journal of the European Union 17.11.2012.

About implementation of 8.33 kHz channel spacing below FL 195 was debated at length during the ICAO EANPG 48, end November 2006. The relevant conclusions of the meeting are:

- States and all concerned entities note the EANPG decision to proceed with the full implementation of 8.33 kHz channel spacing below FL 195 in the area of 8.33 kHz operations in the EUR region;
- EUROCONTROL will be invited to develop an implementation plan for a phased transition to a full implementation of 8.33 kHz channel spacing below FL 195;

- EUROCONTROL will be invited in the context of the Single European Sky (SES) to propose as soon as possible an amendment to the European Commission Implementing Rule on Air-Ground Voice Channel Spacing (AGVCS-IR);
- States mandate carriage of 8.33 kHz equipment from 1 January 2008 for all new orders for aircraft to be flown in the 8.33 kHz channel spacing area of operations in the EUR region;
- States advise all affected entities of the provisional dates for the introduction of services in 8.33 kHz channel spacing with steps in 2010 and 2013.

EUROCONTROL has developed a business case for this matter. This case is reviewed at the meeting of the 8.33 kHz Steering Committee. State representatives, IAOPA, Europe Air Sports and the European Commission attended the meeting.

The business case has been revised in line with the feedback from the Committee. Comments are also received from several authorities and organisations. Not only written comments but also in meetings with the industry, 8.33 kHz contact persons, and ICAO.

Following the above mandates the amendment to the European Commission Implementing Rule on Air-Ground Voice Channel Spacing (AGVCS-IR) was developed, subjected to the formal consultation process of the European Union and consequently came in to force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal of the European Union 17.11.2012.

The relevant documents in the English language are available via the EUROCONTROL website <http://www.eurocontrol.int/833>.

## 5 INFORMATION

This AIC is a publication of CAA-NL (Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

For questions or remarks:

Post: Information Centre Civil Aviation Authority Netherlands  
P.O. Box 90653  
2509 LR The Hague  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 (0)88 489 0000  
Fax: +31 (0)70 456 2424  
Email: [informatiecentrum@ilent.nl](mailto:informatiecentrum@ilent.nl)

or through the "Vragenformulier" on the website <http://www.ilent.nl/contact/>.  
You will receive a reply within 5 working days.

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## 6 DOCUMENT CONTROL

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