

§ 87.193

aircraft radio operator license may be issued by such foreign government.

EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTERS

§ 87.193 Scope of service.

Transmissions by emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) are intended to be actuated manually or automatically and operated automatically as part of an aircraft or a survival craft station as a locating aid for survival purposes.

§ 87.195 121.5 MHz ELTs.

ELTs that operate only on frequency 121.5 MHz will no longer be certified. The manufacture, importation, and sale of ELTs that operate only on frequency 121.5 MHz is prohibited beginning July 10, 2019. Existing ELTs that operate only on frequency 121.5 MHz must be operated as certified.

[83 FR 63812, Dec. 12, 2018]

§ 87.197 ELT test procedures.

ELT testing must avoid outside radiation. Bench and ground tests conducted outside of an RF-shielded enclosure must be conducted with the ELT terminated into a dummy load.

§ 87.199 Special requirements for 406.0–406.1 MHz ELTs.

(a) 406.0–406.1 MHz ELTs use G1D emission. Except for the spurious emission limits specified in § 87.139(h), 406.0–406.1 MHz ELTs must meet all the technical and performance standards contained in the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics document titled “Minimum Operational Performance Standards 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT)” Document No. RTCA/DO-204 dated September 29, 1989. Document No. RTCA/DO-204 is incorporated by reference into this section with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. This incorporation by reference (IBR) material is available for inspection at the FCC and at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Contact the FCC through the Federal Communications Commission’s Reference Information Center, phone: (202) 418–0270. For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit [www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html)

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locations.html or email fr.inspection@nara.gov. The material may be obtained from the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA), Inc., 1150 18th Street NW, Suite 910, Washington, DC 20036; phone: (202) 833–9339; email: info@rtca.org; website: www.rtca.org.

(b) The 406.0–406.1 MHz ELT must contain as an integral part a homing beacon operating only on 121.500 MHz that meets all the requirements described in the RTCA Recommended Standards document described in paragraph (a) of this section. The 121.500 MHz homing beacon must have a continuous duty cycle that may be interrupted during the transmission of the 406.0–406.1 MHz signal only.

(c) As part of its Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity a 406.0–406.1 MHz ELT, the ELT must be certified by a test facility recognized by one of the COSPAS/SARSAT Partners that the equipment satisfies the design characteristics associated with the COSPAS/SARSAT document COSPAS/SARSAT 406 MHz Distress Beacon Type Approval Standard (C/S T.007). Additionally, an independent test facility must certify that the ELT complies with the electrical and environmental standards associated with the RTCA Recommended Standards.

NOTE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (c): The verification procedure has been replaced by Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity. Equipment previously authorized under subpart J of part 2 of this chapter may remain in use. See § 2.950 of this chapter.

(d) The procedures for Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity are contained in subpart J of part 2 of this chapter.

(e) An identification code, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Program Manager for the 406.0–406.1 MHz COSPAS/SARSAT satellite system, must be programmed in each ELT unit to establish a unique identification for each ELT station. With each marketable ELT unit the manufacturer or grantee must include a postage pre-paid registration card printed with the ELT identification code addressed to: NOAA/SARSAT Beacon Registration, NSOF, E/SPO53, 1315 East West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910–9684. The registration card must request the owner’s name, address,

telephone, type of aircraft, alternate emergency contact, and other information as required by NOAA. The registration card must also contain information regarding the availability to register the ELT at NOAA's online Web-based registration database at: <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov>.

Further, the following statement must be included: "WARNING—failure to register this ELT with NOAA before installation could result in a monetary forfeiture being issued to the owner."

(f) To enhance protection of life and property, it is mandatory that each 406.0–406.1 MHz ELT must be registered with NOAA before installation and that information be kept up-to-date. In addition to the identification plate or label requirements contained in §§ 2.925 and 2.926 of this chapter, each 406.0–406.1 MHz ELT must be provided on the outside with a clearly discernable permanent plate or label containing the following statement: "The owner of this 406.0–406.1 MHz ELT must register the NOAA identification code contained on this label with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), whose address is: NOAA/SARSAT Beacon Registration, NSOF, E/SPO53, 1315 East West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910-9684." Aircraft owners shall advise NOAA in writing upon change of aircraft or ELT ownership, or any other change in registration information. Fleet operators must notify NOAA upon transfer of ELT to another aircraft outside of the owner's control, or any other change in registration information. NOAA will provide registrants with proof of registration and change of registration postcards.

(g) For 406.0–406.1 MHz ELTs whose identification code can be changed after manufacture, the identification code shown on the plant or label must be easily replaceable using commonly available tools.

[69 FR 32885, June 14, 2004, as amended at 76 FR 17352, Mar. 29, 2011; 79 FR 77918, Dec. 29, 2014; 82 FR 50838, Nov. 2, 2017; 85 FR 64410, Oct. 13, 2020; 88 FR 21449, Apr. 10, 2023]

Subpart G—Aeronautical Advisory Stations (Unicom)

§ 87.213 Scope of service.

(a) An aeronautical advisory station (unicom) must provide service to any aircraft station upon request and without discrimination. A unicom must provide impartial information concerning available ground services.

(b)(1) Unicom transmissions must be limited to the necessities of safe and expeditious operation of aircraft such as condition of runways, types of fuel available, wind conditions, weather information, dispatching, or other necessary information. At any airport at which a control tower, control tower remote communications outlet station (RCO) or FAA flight service station is located, unicom must not transmit information pertaining to the conditions of runways, wind conditions, or weather information during the hours of operation of the control tower, RCO or FAA service station.

(2) On a secondary basis, unicom may transmit communications which pertain to the efficient portal-to-portal transit of an aircraft, such as requests for ground transportation, food or lodging.

(3) Communications between unicom and air carrier must be limited to the necessities of safety of life and property.

(4) Unicom may communicate with aeronautical utility stations and ground vehicles concerning runway conditions and safety hazards on the airport when neither a control tower nor FAA flight service station is in operation.

(c) Unicom must not be used for air traffic control (ATC) purposes other than to relay ATC information between the pilot and air traffic controller. Relaying of ATC information is limited to the following:

(1) Revisions of proposed departure time;

(2) Takeoff, arrival or flight plan cancellation time;

(3) ATC clearances, provided a letter of agreement is obtained from the FAA by the licensee of the unicom.

[53 FR 28940, Aug. 1, 1988, as amended at 55 FR 30464, July 26, 1990]