

Biennial Hot-Topics Briefing Menu - Irv Lee

This list evolves over time and is not a 'test' for the pilot, it is merely a 'selection menu' for the pilot to drive discussion or education from the instructor on topics, issues, processes or applications that have changed since the pilot's previous 2 yearly meeting with an instructor. **Recent additions are slightly shaded like this.**

NOTAM checking: There is a new-look / new function AIS system.

- Is basic Demo required? Is Pilot aware of 'efficient use' e.g.: Advantages of 'Narrow Route Brief' or 'Point Brief' over 'FIR' brief, or aware that routes are 'auto-stored' for use again?
- Is pilot aware of how to code 'dogleg' routes using navaid offsets in preference to widening the overall route to encompass turning point? e.g.: CPT270045 (45 miles west (mag) of VOR CPT)
- If never previously dialled, demo of AIS freephone 0500 354802 for warnings of Red Arrows displays, Restrictions of Flying, etc. This has recently been made available from 'abroad' on +44 208 750 3939

Going Abroad: There are new systems and requirements:

- AFPEX Online System – awareness of existence and requirements to register
- Fax / contact numbers now changed to Swanwick, need for 'addressing' on plans.
- The need for PLB/ELT in France, even over land (exemptions for ULMs - microlights)
- Awareness of growing (uncoordinated) Mode S requirements in Europe

Charts: Awareness of useful auto e-mail updates (www.caa.co.uk/charts)

- Register on CAA site for auto e-mails, alerting changes to your existing VFR charts during its period of validity. Eg: new glider winch site may appear long before a new chart issue is due

Weather:

- Newer (late 2006 design) Metform 215 gives cloud tops as well as cloud bases
- TAFs: New format with date included in time groups, some extending to 30 hours

Transponders: (See www.flyontrack.co.uk for more details)

- The concept of 'listening squawks' and where trials are held around the country.
- Use of 'Charlie' whenever possible, even when not specified by ATC.
- 'Transponder Mandatory Zones' from 24/9/2009 under the Stansted CTA stubs.

ATSOCAS

- Explanation that the new services exist, with a short summary of relevant ones for that pilot. CAA CD provided for further information if necessary.

PPL:

- 'English Proficiency' statement needed on licence if it is an ICAO compliant licence.
- NPPL medical declaration with SEP rating if NPPL-SSEA rules/restrictions adopted

NPPL: If pilot is an NPPL holder, there are major changes:

- Since 1/7/2009, all NPPL ratings follow a new revalidation scheme with 2 yearly expiry dates. Old NPPL-SSEA ratings without expiry date no longer valid.
- 'Cross-counting' of hours between NPPL ratings is allowed for revalidation - see AIC on topic.

Permit Operation:

- Overflight of built up areas allowed, subject at least 1000' agl (higher if needed to be able to glide clear).

Infringements:

- Is pilot aware of the large amount of useful countrywide 'local' VFR guides, Hot News, Useful Links, and Radar Replays on FlyOnTrack, including further explanations of many of the items mentioned here?
- For pilots flying near the London area, a DVD of briefings, tips, gotchas, and video shots of routes is available [free](#) from NATS – "VFR Around the London TMA"