



16790 / AUX-PL-015(A)
BSX Policy Letter 22-05
28 Feb 2022

From: T. P. Glendye, CAPT /s/
Chief, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety

Reply to CDR E. Cruz
Attn of: (202) 372-1268

To: Distribution

Subj: AUXILIARY AVIATION AIRCRAFT VHF-FM ANTENNA UPDATE

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series), Annex 1,
section C

- 1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this policy letter is to update the Communication Equipment policies listed in reference (a).
- 2) ACTION. All Auxiliary pilots must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter. Elected and appointed leaders and program managers at all levels of the Auxiliary organization shall ensure adherence to this Policy Letter.
- 3) BACKGROUND. Auxiliary aircraft facilities are required to have a VHF-FM radio with a dedicated antenna mounted externally. Metal aircraft require the external antenna to transmit effectively and typically mount the antenna on the aircraft's belly with the coax passing through a hole into the cabin. Newer construction aircraft with composite fuselages do not require the antenna to be mounted externally for effective transmission and require standardized guidance. Drilling a hole in a composite fuselage weakens the structure and may void the aircraft's Airworthiness Certificate.
- 4) DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of reference (a).
- 5) MAJOR CHANGES. The policy changes below are effective immediately:
 - a) Reference (a), Annex 1, Section C is updated to read:

C.2.a. Communications Equipment. Required communications equipment includes:

 - VHF-FM transceiver with at least channels 16, 22A, and district required channels with an antenna mounted external to the aircraft. Composite aircraft may use a fixed mount antenna internal to the aircraft, upon approval of the District Flight Examining Board and Director. A vertically polarized dipole antenna, or a ½ wave No Ground Plane (NGP) whip are recommend for composite aircraft.
 - VHF-AM transceiver with at least 121.5, 123.1, and 122.9 MHz.

- 6) DISCLAIMER. This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliary personnel and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
- 7) QUESTIONS. Questions concerning this policy letter should be directed to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1) at CGAUX@uscg.mil. This policy letter and other policy documents are posted on the CG Auxiliary website at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=risk-mgt>
- 8) DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of the Policy Letter. An electronic version will be posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary and Coast Guard Auxiliary web sites: <http://agroup-bx.wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP> and <http://www.cgaux.org/>, respectively. All web sites in this Policy Letter are the most current available. If the cited web site link does not work, then access should be attempted by copying and pasting or typing the web site address into the user's internet browser.
- 9) REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals may recommend changes in writing via their cognizant Auxiliary chain of leadership to Commandant (CG-BSX-1), ATTN: Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1), U. S. Coast Guard Stop 7501, 2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE SE, WASHINGTON DC 20593-7501.

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