



InFO

Information for Operators

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http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info

An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety.

Subject: Installation and Approval of Transponder Systems in Gliders/Sailplanes

Purpose: This InFO provides guidance to glider/sailplane owners and operators on the installation of transponder systems in gliders/sailplanes.

Background: On August 28, 2006, a Raytheon Aircraft Company Hawker 800XP and a Schleicher ASW27-18 collided in-flight at an altitude of about 16,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The collision occurred in an area frequently traversed by air carrier and other turbojet airplanes inbound to Reno/Tahoe International Airport and also popular for glider/sailplane operations because of the thermal and mountain wave gliding opportunities. The concept of see-and-avoid is limited in preventing midair collisions due to the high speed of the aircraft involved. A National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommendation asked the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to develop guidance material for glider/sailplane owners and operators on installation options of transponder systems and to aid in the prompt installation and approval of transponders in gliders.

Recommended Action: Glider/sailplane owners and operators should be aware of the following information regarding installation and approval of transponder systems in gliders/sailplanes.

a. FAA Publications. The following Advisory Circulars (AC) may be found by either visiting <http://rgl.faa.gov/>, clicking on "Advisory Circulars" and performing a search or by clicking on the links below. The [FAA Aeronautical Information Manual \(AIM\)](#), Chapter, 4.1.20, Transponder Operation can be viewed by clicking on the blue colored link above and scrolling down.

- Current edition of [AC 43.13-2, Acceptable Methods, Techniques and Practices – Aircraft Alterations](#);
- Current edition of [AC 43-6, Altitude Reporting Equipment and Transponder System Maintenance and Inspection Practices](#).

b. Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR). The following 14 CFR sections may be found by either visiting [e-CFR](#), or by clicking on the links below.

- 14 CFR part 23, § [23.1325](#);
- 14 CFR part 43, §§ [43.3](#), [43.5](#), [43.9](#), [43.13](#), appendices [E](#) and [F](#); and
- 14 CFR part 91, §§ [91.215](#), [91.217](#), [91.411](#), [91.413](#);

c. Industry Information. General information about the glider/sailplane industry may be viewed at the Soaring Society of America (SSA) Web site at <http://www.ssa.org/>.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this InFO should be directed to the Aircraft Maintenance Division, General Aviation Branch, AFS-350, at (202) 267-1675.