

Maintenance Records – Part of the Aircraft

Want to spend more money than necessary for a maintenance programme? Then make sure you accept your new aircraft with few, or no, maintenance records.

Engineers are frustrated that some newly purchased aircraft arrive in their workshop for induction, with little, or no, documented history.

“It really holds things up,” says Timaru-based engineer, Dave Crosbie. “Certified log entries are not enough these days, especially when presenting the machine for a Certificate of Airworthiness, be it import or export.

“The same applies, transferring from one maintenance provider to another. It’s the owner’s responsibility to make sure all the maintenance records follow the machine – not just the log books.

“Otherwise, you’ve got to take the time to substantiate components, confirm that what is in the log books is correct, and chase up historical information for the new Review of Airworthiness.”

Steve Backhurst, CAA Aviation Safety Adviser, says that obviously means it’s going to cost the new owner more to get a maintenance programme set up.

“What some of the vendors – and purchasers – may not realise is that the maintenance records are part of the value of the aircraft and cannot be withheld.”

Dave Crosbie says some of the problem may stem from owners’ and some maintenance providers’ confusion about what a maintenance record actually is.

The following documents, at the very least, should be transferred:

- » All aircraft log books
- » Component history cards
- » Worksheets
- » Release documentation
- » Tech logs – in accordance with rule 91.623.

“My advice,” says Steve, “is to not accept the aircraft without the records. To be absolutely sure, make it part of the purchase contract that you receive the records before payment is made.” ■

New Southern Sky

Get out your diaries because two key NSS events should be on your radar in 2018.

Approach 18

20 to 21 March 2018, Wellington

The NSS team, including Airways and Aeropath, will come together again to present Approach 18, following on from the success of Approach 16. It’s a two-day seminar at the CAA in Wellington where you’ll be brought up to date with all things in the Performance Based Navigation (PBN) world.

This is not just for pilots. We encourage the staff of avionics shops, LAMEs, airport operations staff, air traffic controllers, and procedure designers to participate. There will be something for everyone.

NSS Conference 2018

15 to 16 May 2018, Auckland

A range of delegates and presenters from both local and international aviation fields are being lined up for the second NSS conference. It will be held at the Beca Conference Centre, Pitt Street. Places are limited. This conference will examine all aspects of the NSS programme as Stage 2 continues to be rolled out across New Zealand.

For information and to register for both events visit www.nss.govt.nz/events. ■

New AD Logbook Tabs

The CAA has added two more tabs to the AD logbook for operators and maintainers to be able to contain information on Electrical Load Analysis and Aircraft Software Configuration Management in a common place.

These new tabs will be supplied in initial packs from now on. If you wish to add them to your existing AD logbook, you can order them separately for \$5.75 incl GST.

See www.caa.govt.nz/forms. ■

In, Out and Around Christchurch GAP Booklet

This new Good Aviation Practice booklet aims to improve pilots’ awareness of what is involved in flying through and around the Christchurch district.

It is busy, and in some places, complex airspace. There’s an international airport, a multitude of CFZs and MBZs, a plethora of private airstrips, charted and uncharted, areas of adventure aviation, and Antarctic operations. It’s also been called “a giant training zone”.

In addition, many of the visual reporting points in the area can be difficult to identify because of the transformation of natural features into dairy farmland.

This booklet introduces itinerant pilots to some of those VRPs, and to many of the characteristics peculiar to flying in this area.

For a free copy, email info@caa.govt.nz. ■

