

ADS-B CHANGES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



The Minister of Transport has signed off changes to the rules relating to using ADS-B in all controlled airspace. One of those amended rules sets the date at which this becomes mandatory – to 31 December 2022.

The move to Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast as the primary means of air traffic surveillance is one of the most significant aviation system changes in more than 30 years.

Providing up to 45 percent more airspace coverage than the existing secondary surveillance radars, the ability to find aircraft far more quickly in an emergency, and increased situational awareness through ADS-B IN, the technology is a fundamental improvement to aviation safety.

But what does it mean to you? And why should you be equipping with ADS-B as soon as possible?

ADS-B Grant Scheme Technical Advisor Tom Gormley answers frequently asked questions about the major changes that all operators and pilots should be aware of.

When does the rule come into effect?

The amended rule is in force now.

The most important thing to note is that the date from which it becomes mandatory for all aircraft to transmit ADS-B data in controlled airspace is now **midnight on 31 December 2022**. This is a full year beyond the previously proposed date. The delay is primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What issues might I have if I delay equipping until the second half of 2022?

We really recommend that you equip as soon as possible. We're regularly in contact with avionics workshops throughout the country, and most are reporting they're already extremely busy. By the time we approach the final six months of 2022, I'd expect the workshops to be even busier.

If you leave it to the last minute and try to get booked into a workshop in the last six months, there's every chance you won't be equipped in time – and you won't be able to fly in controlled airspace.

What if I don't equip with ADS-B before 31 December 2022, but I later need to enter controlled airspace?

You'll be unable to enter controlled airspace. The move to ADS-B as the primary method of surveillance in controlled airspace has long been signalled, and you now have an extra year to get your aircraft equipped. Don't get complacent however – the clock is ticking.

What's happening with ADS-B IN? There doesn't appear to be any mention of it in the rule changes.

ADS-B IN is not mandated but it is a fantastic tool to improve situational awareness – those aircraft with ADS-B IN can display other aircraft transmitting ADS-B data. This is a big incentive to install ADS-B OUT and IN even if you don't use controlled airspace, because it will be a safety benefit to the wider general aviation sector. But remember that ADS-B IN is an addition to, not a replacement for, a robust visual lookout.

The ADS-B grant scheme offers up to \$500 plus GST to equip with ADS-B IN, and some pieces of equipment cost around \$500.

Are there any changes to the way I should operate my transponder?

The rule has been changed to ensure that ADS-B data is being transmitted at all times in controlled airspace. You must now be transmitting ADS-B data from the moment your aircraft begins to move under its own power. That's likely to be quite a change from the norm of transmitting just prior to takeoff.

If your aircraft is equipped with an ADS-B system, we encourage you to check the operating handbook for the equipment to make sure it's being operated correctly at all times.

I've already equipped with ADS-B. How do I operate the transponder up to 31 December 2022?

If you're in transponder mandatory airspace – controlled or uncontrolled – and unless you're able to operate the transponder in Mode A/C or S, you must transmit ADS-B data.

Although not mandatory, we strongly encourage transmission of ADS-B data in all other airspace to benefit the whole aviation sector. Don't forget that aircraft with an ADS-B IN receiver are able to 'see' other aircraft transmitting ADS-B data.

Is the CAA providing any financial assistance to help me equip with ADS-B?

The government-funded ADS-B grant scheme is providing up to \$2,500 plus GST for ADS-B OUT and an additional \$500 plus GST for ADS-B IN. If you're wanting to apply, nss.govt.nz/adsb has plenty of information. Also check the back cover of this issue of *Vector*.

A final message

It's simple – get equipped as soon as you can and start transmitting ADS-B data at all times. Given the lead time for installing an upgrade, 31 December 2022 is not that far away. ➔

Any queries? Email adsb@caa.govt.nz.

ADS-B
EQUIP NOW!

SEE and be
SEEN

LEARN MORE AT nss.govt.nz/adsb

The image is a promotional graphic for ADS-B equipment. It features a dark blue header with the text 'ADS-B EQUIP NOW!' in white. Below this is a photograph of a small white aircraft flying against a blue sky with light clouds. Overlaid on the bottom left of the photo is the text 'SEE and be SEEN' in large, bold, blue letters. At the bottom of the graphic is a dark blue footer with the text 'LEARN MORE AT nss.govt.nz/adsb' in white.