

Report to Bureau November March 2017

Electronic Devices in Competitions (EDIC) Working Group

The Working Group has been operating since January 2014.

Following on from the November 2016 report, work continues in four areas of activity, altimeters devices for F5J competitions, altimeters for Space Modelling, technical equipment associated with F5B, F5D and F5F Classes, and an investigation into automatic timekeeping for soaring classes.

F5J AMRT Devices

No new devices have been submitted for approval since the list of approved devices posted on the CIAM website was issued in June 2015. We are aware of two manufacturers who may be seeking device approval in the future.

One of these is advertising a product as F5J compliant but there are indications that there are aspects that will not satisfy the EDIC Specification. He has been referred to the EDIC Documentation, and a response is awaited.

Space Modelling

During 2015, the Working Group produced a specification for altimeters for use in Space Modelling. The recommendations were accepted by Bureau at the December 2015 meeting and have been published in the 2016 EDIC Volume of the Sporting Code.

Progress on setting up a facility for carrying out EDIC verification continues, located in the USA.

The evaluation facility is also working towards a better understanding and resolution of the potential difficulties that can be introduced by pressure fluctuation from such aspects as side winds and the in flight separation of the differing stages of the Space Model.

There is currently only one manufacturer from Poland expressing interest in gaining approval. This manufacturer and the evaluation facility are cooperating to resolve some minor issues prior to approval being granted.

For the 2017 European SM Championships, this manufacturer will be providing the altimeter services.

The manufacturer is currently in the process of establishing a worldwide distribution outlet as a means of satisfying the limited demand for SM altimeter devices.

CIAM must be aware of the potential difficulties that might arise when a competition Class is reliant upon a product for which there is only one commercial supplier.

F5B, F5D and F5F

Towards the end of 2015, documents were prepared to define Power Limiter devices and telemetry equipment for these Classes. These are now published in the Sporting Code and

the devices from a USA manufacturer were approved in time for the 2016 World Championships in these Classes.

Automatic Timekeeping for Soaring Classes

Initial work has been carried out and the first stages were presented at a conference preceding the April 2016 Plenary Meeting. Following this members were appointed to the EDIC Working Group with an initial view to considering the application to Class F3B.

Work is being directed towards understanding what can actually be achieved by available technology with a view to determining how it can be incorporated into a competitive environment.

It is highly unlikely that a solution can be achieved that will fully comply with existing Class Rules. This places EDIC Working Group in a position of needing to determine what can be realistically achieved technically and advising the various S/Cs on adaptations to the Class Rules. Adoption will be dependent upon Rule changes being agreed by CIAM.

The subject is technically complex and at present there is no commercial incentive to encourage development. We are reliant on manufacturers to undertake experimental work at their own expense.

EDIC WG can offer opinion and guidance but must also respect commercial confidentiality without being considered to be favouring any particular manufacturer.

Currently detection of launch release for tow launched aircraft is reported to be satisfactory. Rule proposals are currently under consideration for introducing a launch height factor into the F3B Class Rules and EDIC WG are drafting a technical specification in anticipation of formal adoption of the Rule amendments.

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Eur Ing Paul Newell
Chairman FAI-CIAM EDIC Working Group

21 March 2017