

Executive Director Decision

2016/028/R

of 15 December 2016

**closing rulemaking task RMT.0583 (MDM.003(c))
on 'lead flight test engineer (LFTE) licence'**

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY AGENCY,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 216/2008¹, and in particular Article 38(3)(a) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EU) No 748/2012², and in particular Article 10 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) EASA shall, pursuant to Article 18(c) of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008, issue certification specifications and acceptable means of compliance, as well as guidance material, for the application of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 and its implementing rules.
- (2) EASA shall, pursuant to Article 19(2) of Regulation (EC) No 216/2008, reflect the state of the art and the best practices in the fields concerned and update its decisions taking into account worldwide aircraft experience in service, and scientific and technical progress.
- (3) Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1039³, amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 748/2012, includes in its Annex I (Part 21) flight test safety improvement issues, and defines and harmonises flight test crew qualifications.
- (4) Following the adoption of Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1039, EASA received comments requesting the establishment of a lead flight test engineer (LFTE) licensing scheme. EASA issued on 13 August 2013 Advance Notice of Proposed Amendment (A-NPA) 2013-16⁴ with the aim to gather information about

¹ Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency, and repealing Council Directive 91/670/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1592/2002 and Directive 2004/36/EC (OJ L 79, 19.3.2008, p. 1).

² Commission Regulation (EU) No 748/2012 of 3 August 2012 laying down implementing rules for the airworthiness and environmental certification of aircraft and related products, parts and appliances, as well as for the certification of design and production organisations (OJ L 224, 21.8.2012, p. 1).

³ Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1039 of 30 June 2015 amending Regulation (EU) No 748/2012 as regards flight testing (OJ L 167, 1.7.2015, p. 1).

⁴ <http://www.easa.europa.eu/document-library/notices-of-proposed-amendments/npa-2013-16>

the need for such a licence, followed by meetings of the A-NPA 2013-16 Review Group⁵. The review of comments did not provide enough justifications supporting the establishment of a European LFTE licensing scheme.

- (5) The review of the comments and the A-NPA 2013-16 Review Group discussions have shown that there is no safety benefit for the civil aviation safety system that would justify the establishment of a new LFTE licensing scheme. However, the review of the comments and the A-NPA 2013-16 Review Group discussions have shown that existing national licensing schemes may provide a benefit if they are to be recognised as a means for design organisations to demonstrate compliance with the LFTE competency/experience requirements of Annex I (Part 21). Therefore, the AMC/GM to Annex I (Part 21) should be amended to clarify this. This shall be done through the next regular update of AMC/GM to Part 21 (RMT.0031),

HAS DECIDED:

Article 1

RMT.0583 (MDM.003(c)) shall be closed without the issue of an opinion proposing amendments to Annex I (Part 21).

Article 2

This Decision shall be published in the Official Publication of the Agency.

Done at Cologne, 15 December 2016.

*For the European Aviation Safety Agency
The Executive Director*

Patrick KY

⁵ [https://www.easa.europa.eu/system/files/dfu/rulemaking-docs-mpa-rg-A-NPA-Review-Group-RMT.0583-\(MDM.003\(c\)\)--Issue-1.pdf](https://www.easa.europa.eu/system/files/dfu/rulemaking-docs-mpa-rg-A-NPA-Review-Group-RMT.0583-(MDM.003(c))--Issue-1.pdf)

