

October 2023

CAA POLICY STATEMENT ON THE RULES APPLICABLE TO CONTINUING AIRWORTHINESS OF VTOL AIRCRAFT

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents UK Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) current position on continued airworthiness regulatory basis applicable to VTOL aircraft.
- 1.2 The CAA is using existing legislation for the regulation of VTOL operations to the greatest extent possible, as we appreciate that our collective understanding of the new technology will grow as designs mature and operations commence. This understanding will inform the CAA's ongoing work of amending existing legislation to better enable deployment of new aviation technologies such as VTOL operations.
- 1.3 In the meantime, the CAA has developed this policy statement as interim guidance to allow stakeholders to proceed with planning operations in line with CAA's thinking while the formal rulemaking process is taking place. Formal rulemaking will involve industry input and formal consultation as per CAA procedures and best practice.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This statement concerns heavier-than-air aircraft, other than aeroplane or helicopter, capable of performing vertical procedures by means of more than two lift/thrust units and is certified for one or more occupants.

3 Interpretation

- 3.1 In this document, any references to EU regulations are to those regulations as retained and amended in UK domestic law under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and are referenced as "UK Regulation (EU) year/number" or "UK Regulation (EU) No. number/year".

4 Definitions

- 4.1 'VTOL aircraft' means a heavier-than-air aircraft, other than aeroplane or helicopter, capable of performing vertical procedures by means of more than two lift/thrust units and is certified for one or more occupants.

5 Requirements and applicable regulations

- 5.1 VTOL aircraft will be treated as Complex Motor-Powered Aircraft (CMPA) for the purposes of continuing airworthiness and associated regulations, regardless of the operating rules applied.

6 Related Documents

- [UK Regulation \(EU\) No 2018/1139 \(the UK Basic Regulation\)](#)
- [UK Regulation \(EU\) No 1321/2014 \(Continuing Airworthiness Regulation\)](#)

7 Review of Policy

7.1 The CAA retains the right to review this statement on a discretionary basis to take into account technological developments, own research and new evidence it receives from stakeholders that may affect its views and policy.

8 Point of Contact

8.1 Any queries or further guidance required on the content of this statement should be addressed to:

AAMEnquiries@caa.co.uk