

2010 Activity report

The Terms of Reference for the CIMA Flight Recorder Approval Committee (FRAC) are laid out in S10 Annex 6 3.2

Members

- Richard Meredith-Hardy (GBR), Chairman
- José Luis Esteban (ESP)
- Martin Marecek (CZE)
- Vladimir Silhan (CZE)

Activity in 2010

In the absence of a full CIMA approval for the AMOD AGL 3080, a 'temporary approval' was awarded to the organizers of EMC 2010 for its use as a primary Flight Recorder.

FRDL, the AMOD download software still has some problems which must be fixed before a permanent approval can be awarded.

- Flight Recorders sometimes 'forget their ID'. It is though this could be associated with the way MS Windows caches data writes to USB memory sticks, or possibly a result of 'contact bounce' in the USB plugs. A solution has been proposed which should fix this problem.
- There is a problem with PEV fix location in the IGC output file when the logger is set to longer fix recording frequencies (5 sec or 10 sec). The PEV takes the position of the previous recorded fix rather than FRDL writing a new B line at the moment the PEV button is pressed.

Despite these problems the AMOD / FRDL combination worked very well at EMC 2010 and for much of the time was arranged as 'self service' for pilots to download their competition tracks.

It is hoped a new version of FRDL will be released over the winter period.

New Flight Recorders

No one approached FRAC with a view to seeking approval for a Flight Recorder in 2010.

Future work

- Some exciting work is going on in the field of 'track-in, score-out' systems.

In 2011 FRAC will consider creating a new download software specification which will work with such systems.

- The MLR has a small memory, is rather slow to download, computers with serial ports are becoming increasingly rare, as are MLR serial cables.
- The Air Observers are appallingly slow to download, that is if the user has managed to install the download software which is a complex operation which few people seem to succeed with (including many Air Observer owners).

In 2011 FRAC will consider the creation of a deadline beyond which these FRs are considered obsolete as primary FRs in championships. It depends a bit on how progress is made with 'track-in, score-out' systems, but 1 Jan 2013 could be reasonable.