

Forum to Improve General Aviation Search and Rescue

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Who we are...

- The Aircraft Electronics Association (AEA) is a trade organization that represents over 1300 aviation businesses in 42 countries worldwide including:
 - Repair stations that specialize in maintenance, repair and installation of avionics and electronic systems in general aviation aircraft.
 - Instrument repair stations
 - Manufacturers of avionics equipment, instruments, aircraft, and test equipment;
 - Major distributors, and;
 - Educational institutions.



- A & P mechanic
- 40 years of maintenance experience
 - Fixed wing/Helicopters
 - Piston engines
 - Turbo-prop/turbo-shaft/turbo-fan engines
- USCG veteran
 - 26 years of Airborne Search and Rescue

ELT Requirement

- No person may operate a U.S.-registered civil airplane unless there is attached to the airplane an approved automatic type emergency locator transmitter (§ 91.207(a)(1))
 - Rule does not specify : TSO c91a (121.5 MHz) or c126 (406 MHz)



Inspection Requirement

- Each emergency locator transmitter required by paragraph (a) of this section must be inspected within 12 calendar months after the last inspection for -
 - (1) Proper installation;
 - (2) Battery corrosion;
 - (3) Operation of the controls and crash sensor; and
 - (4) The presence of a sufficient signal radiated from its antenna.

(§ 91.207(d))

Maintenance Experience

- New Zealand (12 month inspection):
 - Mounting
 - Antenna
 - Programming
- United States
 - Lack of procedures

ELT/Aircraft Maintenance

- AC 20-106 - AIRCRAFT INSPECTION FOR THE GENERAL AVIATION AIRCRAFT OWNER (April 1978)
- AC 43.13-1B ACCEPTABLE METHODS, TECHNIQUES, AND PRACTICES — AIRCRAFT INSPECTION AND REPAIR (September 8, 1998)

Recommendations

- Designate ELT installation and inspection as “Specialized Maintenance” (Canadian model)
 - ELTs should be installed, inspected and maintained by trained and certified Radio Repair Stations
- Update maintenance procedures
 - FAA guidance should address modern ELTs.

