

Safety Recommendation Number:	IRLD2014016
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Safety Recommendation Status:	Implemented, closed

Safety Recommendation:

Flight Calibration Services conduct a general review of their calibration flight procedures and practices and in particular ensure that their VFR calibration flights comply with the flight conditions applicable in Class C airspace.

Response:

Flight Calibration Services Limited (FCSL) advised the AAIU by letter dated 26 November 2014 that:

"The safety recommendation was for Flight Calibration Services to conduct a general review of their calibration flight procedures and practises and in particular ensure that their VFR calibration flights comply with the flight conditions applicable in Class C airspace (IRLD2014016).

A management meeting (28th July 2014) was held to review our procedures and VFR minima in class C airspace. The IAA approved procedure for ILS calibration in Southern Ireland (FIP 23 Issue 2) was correctly followed. The weather minima for conducting ILS calibration in the procedure states "cloud base not below 1200', visibility not less than 8KM and that the aircraft shall not fly within 1000' of the ground in IMC". It was found that the procedure did not discuss minimum ATC traffic separation. It was agreed that ATC traffic separation is an ATC responsibility as they have overall situation awareness however it is the responsibility of the crew to declare if they are unable to maintain VFR, and for ATC to advise any impact accordingly.

After review it was decided that the procedure remains correct and did not require any amendment.

Pilots are now aware of the requirement and should pilots be on the verge of entering cloud whilst on a VFR flight, they should inform ATC, operating further with IFR traffic separation. On the day of the incident the aircraft had not been given a VFR or IFR clearance and was operating for the majority of the flight in VFR. This is where the ambiguity had arisen and a lesson has been learnt with all crews now aware of the requirements."

In relation to a separate recommendation which was directed to EASA (IRLD2014017), Flight Calibration also highlighted that:

"In response to the final report, internally we raised a Flight Inspection Observation Notice in accordance with our internal procedures (FION No 045) of which the management decision was to install a traffic awareness system (form of TCAS) to all aircraft on a rolling program. I am pleased to say that 2 aircraft are now fitted with

this system with the other two scheduled in line with routine maintenance. This is in support of the AAIU recommendation to EASA (IRLD2014017) to have calibration aircraft installed with TCAS."

AAIU Comment:

