

Consultation paper

Equivalent Safety Finding

Doc. No.: ESF-G23.1549-01

Issue : 1

Date : 27.07.2022

Proposed \boxtimes Final \square Deadline for comments: 17.08.2022

SUBJECT : Powerplant Instruments – Normal Operation Range Colour

REQUIREMENTS incl. Amdt. : CS 23.1549(b)

ASSOCIATED IM/MoC : Yes□ / No ☒

ADVISORY MATERIAL : none

INTRODUCTORY NOTE:

The following Equivalent Safety Finding (ESF) has been classified as important and as such shall be subject to public consultation in accordance with EASA Management Board decision 12/2007 dated 11 September 2007, Article 3 (2.) which states:

"2. Deviations from the applicable airworthiness codes, environmental protection certification specifications and/or acceptable means of compliance with Part 21, as well as important special conditions and equivalent safety findings, shall be submitted to the panel of experts and be subject to a public consultation of at least 3 weeks, except if they have been previously agreed and published in the Official Publication of the Agency. The final decision shall be published in the Official Publication of the Agency."

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUE:

EASA has received an application for approval of a major design change to a business jet, where the colour coding of some powerplant instruments aircraft design is not fully compliant with CS 23.1549(b).

CS 23.1549(b) requires that each normal operating range must be marked with a green arc or green line, not extending beyond the maximum and minimum safe limits.

Differently, in the presented design change N1 and Interstage Turbine Temperature (ITT) are indicated through white arcs in the normal operating range with the use of amber and red colours in the background when limits are exceeded.

Therefore the applicant has requested an Equivalent Safety Finding (ESF) to CS 23.1549(b) with the argument that the FAA AC 20-88A "Guidelines on the marking of aircraft powerplant instruments (displays)" and FAA AC 23.1311-1C "Installation of Electronic Display in Part 23 Airplanes" provides the basis for using a colour other than "green" to indicate normal engine operation.

EASA considers that the ESF in Appendix A, combined with the presented description, provides a level of safety equivalent to CS 23.1549(b).





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Appendix A

Equivalent Safety Finding (ESF)

Powerplant Instruments - Normal Operating Range Colour

1. APPLICABILITY

This ESF is applicable to a Business Jet with Current Speed Control (CSC) not installed

1.1 AFFECTED CS

CS 23.1549(b)

2. COMPENSATING FACTORS

In lieu of a direct compliance with CS 23.1549(b), and provided that the below compensating factors are complied with, N1 and Interstage Turbine Temperature (ITT) can be indicated through white arcs in the normal operating range, using amber and red colours in the background when limits are exceeded:

1. The analogical parameters are indicated with white arcs that highlight the amber and red limit markings. The limit markings indicate the operational ranges.

The red and amber lines stand out in the analog displays due to the use of the white arc and, therefore, are effective in indicating the operational range of the instruments. Hence the flightcrew have a clear indication of the current operational status of the engine through the display of the engine parameters as well as their proximity and rate of change to their indicated limits.

2. Digital indications provided inside the dials are green in colour when the parameters are within their operational limits and are red or amber in colour and the colour is inverted (i.e. the colour of the background changes) when parameters exceed their limits.

The colouring of the digital indications allows the flightcrew to notice, at a glance, if the engine is operating within its limits. Therefore any limit exceedences will still be easily detected by the flightcrew allowing them to take appropriate actions.

3. When the parameter exceeds its amber or red limits, the analogical dial background is coloured with the correspondent colour.

The white arc also enables the flightcrew to notice a colour change in the dial when the parameter exceeds any of its limits. The colour change is an essential alert to the flightcrew of a situation that demands action.

- 4. The Full-Authority Digital Engine Controller is the primary responsible to maintain engine ITT and N1 within their operational limits.
- CS 23.1549 assumes that the flightcrew is primarily responsible for ensuring the continuous and safe operation of the engines by monitoring, at a glance, that the engines instruments are within their operational limits. However, with the advent of the FADEC, a significant part of such control and





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monitoring was migrated into the highly automated controllers such that the primary means of preventing the engine to exceed its limits is the FADEC and no longer the flightcrew. The flightcrew acts only in case of the FADEC failing to keep the engine within the approved limitations. Since such automatism reduces the need for constant monitoring by the flightcrew, it can be concluded that it is a compensating factor if a FADEC is installed on an aircraft for which this ESF applies.