European Union Aviation Safety Agency

DAT

Is a DAT certificate issued per organisation or per office?

Answer

An organisation (= a legal entity) is certified, while the scope of services, for which that organisation/legal entity is entitled to provide services, are listed in the attachment to the service provider's certificate and there can be multiple offices/locations per organisation. On the other hand, the principle location of the company will be printed onto the EASA certificate, while any additional locations will be listed into the application form as well as in the company's exposition.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96110

When the ISO certificate cover only one of the office and the processes are the same, how it could be used as AMC?

Answer

An ISO 9001 or EN 9100 certificate, issued by an appropriately accredited organisation, could be used as acceptable means of compliance (AMC) for the relevant management system requirements (i.e. quality management elements). In this context, it should be noted that the subject organisation should accept the disclosure of the documentation related to the certification to EASA as the competent authority. On the other hand, the ISO 9001/EN 9100 certificate covers only the quality management elements of the management system, while the other elements as stipulated in the rule that are not covered by ISO/EN certificate should be subject to oversight by the competent authority, such as e.g. adequacy of the processes and procedures.

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Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96111

What kind of data providers need to be certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/373?

Answer

DAT provider that processes aeronautical data and provides an aeronautical database for use on certified aircraft application/equipment having a safety effect should be certified. Systems permanently installed, especially in the cockpit, would fall in general into the scope of the regulation.
In another words, databases for which the DAT provider is not required to be certified in accordance with the referenced Regulation include but are not limited to databases provided and/or used by the operator of the aircraft that are monitored under the operator's responsibility and not loaded into certified aircraft applications (e.g. airport moving map used in electronic flight bags (EFBs), take-off and landing performance used in EFBs). Databases that are approved as part of the type design of the aircraft or engine (e.g. engine power settings (take-off, climb, maximum continuous thrust (MCT), and cruise) and aircraft performance data (e.g. take-off distance, V speeds)) do not fall under the scope of certification.

For further details refer to AMC1 DAT.OR.100 Aeronautical data and information and GM1 DAT.OR.100 Aeronautical data and information.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96112

How does the application process look like and what would be the price quote and time schedule?

Answer

The application process is defined by following steps:

- Future DAT provider makes an application, using the available DAT provider application forms
- The application should include some company documentation (Organisation Exposition and a copy of the national Companies register / Certificate of Incorporation)
- An eligibility check will be done by EASA before proceeding with the next steps.
- Charges will differ between the organisations (depending on the organisation scope of work,

number of location etc.) as the fee is calculated based on hours spent on certification. The application form for certification includes the possibility for the organisation to request a quote. If this is option is selected, EASA will send the corresponding quote after assessing the information delivered together with the documentation. No certification activity is started until the organisation accepts the quote.

- Once the quote is accepted, a Kick-Off Meeting between EASA and the organisation is organised in order to launch formally the activity. Certification tasks will start at that meeting.
- The duration of the assessment depends on the type of services and the compliance status of the organisation. Typically, as a minimum, an on-site audit is organised although it can be extended depending on the organisation structure (e.g. number of operational sites).

More information can be found on the following links:
ATM/ANS approvals and ATCO training organisation approvals

And here:
Application for ATM/ANS Service Provider Organisation Approval

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96113

Is it possible to extend the DAT certificate from the initial scope?

Answer

It is always possible to extend a Type 1/Type 2 DAT-provider certificate to include other services through an organisation change and the corresponding assessment activities by the certification team.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96114

Is there a consolidated list of EASA certified DAT providers?

Answer

You can find up-to-date list of certified service providers (including DAT providers) here:List of approved ATM/ANS organisations.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96115

I have a DAT provider certificate (or equivalent) issued by another authority. Is it possible for EASA to recognise it and/or accept it?

Answer

“Equivalent” to an EASA certified Type 1 or Type 2 DAT provider are defined in any Aviation Safety Agreement between the European Union (EU) and a third country, including any Technical Implementation Procedures (TIP), or any Working Arrangements (WA) between EASA and the competent authority of a third country. Up to date information regarding the status of such agreements can be found on our website 'International Cooperation Overview'.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96116

How can I obtain approval against EUROCAE ED-76(A)/RTCA DO-200A(B)?

Answer

It should be noted that the DAT certification attests that the databases produced by an organisation can be used by aircraft operators and that they have put in place an appropriate system for the control of the processing of data. In this context, it should be clearly pointed out that the DAT provider that we are addressing, processes aeronautical data and provides an aeronautical database for use on certified aircraft application/equipment (e.g. FMS) having a safety effect. Furthermore, it is important to be noted that the data as such is not subject to certification, but the organisation is subject to certification that demonstrates its capability to produce the subject databases.

More concretely, EUROCAE ED-76(A)/RTCA DO-200A(B) is only one of the means to demonstrate compliance to some of the requirements laid down in the binding act, i.e. Regulation (EU) 2017/373. For the rest of the requirements, the DAT provider needs to demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements resulting in the issuance of a certificate attesting such compliance.

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Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96117

At what frequency should terrain and obstacle databases be updated?

Answer

Terrain and obstacles databases are not subject to major/planned changes, therefore, the principles and criteria applied in the maintenance of terrain and obstacle database should be specified in the DQR, including the frequency with which data products are updated.
Depending on the intended use, the data/databases may be derived from the States published data (e.g. AIP) or from other sources (e.g. data services (DAT) providers). The data/databases may be updated based on the availability thereof, new sources that allow to improve their quality (e.g. accuracy or resolution), correction of detected errors, etc.
Please note that DAT providers are subject to Regulation (EU) 2017/373 (refer DAT.OR.100 and associated AMC/GM). In this context, when the databases (including terrain and obstacles) are used on certified aircraft application/equipment, (that support the flight operation where incorrect data leads to failures having at least minor or higher failure effect, excluding those databases approved as part of the type design of the aircraft) they should be produced and released by certified DAT providers.
In conclusion, the EU law does not address the frequency of terrain and obstacle database updates.

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Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96120

What are the applicable regulations and requirements for obtaining DAT provider approval?

Answer

Regulation (EU) 2017/373 that requires DAT provider's certification from 1 January 2019.
This regulation is accessible here: Regulation (EU) 2017/373

To support the implementation of said Regulation, please note the associated AMC/GM issued with EASA ED Decision 2017/001/R.

The listed regulatory materials are consolidated in Easy Access Rules for Air Traffic Management/Air Navigation Services: Easy Access Rules for ATM/ANS. These consolidated, up-to-date rules are displayed in an easy-to-read format with advanced navigation features through links and bookmarks and are for free download from the EASA website. The document contains the applicable rules for the providers of Air Traffic Management/Air Navigation Services and other Air Traffic Management network functions, incl. DAT providers. It covers Regulation (EU) 2017/373 and all its annexes (together with the related AMC and GM).

Furthermore, in order to assist stakeholders to prepare for the implementation, EASA organised a workshop focusing on the new requirements and aiming to familiarise with the use of Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material, being established by the Agency. The presentations provided during this Workshop can be found on the page for the event: '1st EASA Workshop for DAT providers'.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96121

Is it possible for a legal entity to define two independent organizations, each dealing with specific Database with separate management processes?

Answer

Usually an organisation (= a legal entity) is certified, while the scope of services, for which that organisation/legal entity is entitled to provide services are listed in the attachment to the service provider’s certificate. However, it is up to the organisation in question to organise its application(s) and the demonstration of compliance for the various services. It should be noted that the potential parallel applications would result in parallel certification and subsequently continuous oversight processes.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96123

In case of tailored data, is it possible to release Test database upon request of the end user and is statement of conformity required for such database?

Answer

The change compare to the current LoA scheme is that the tailored data processing (from data origination and/or receiving till its release, incl. signing of the statement of conformity by DAT provider(s)) becomes subject to process verification and oversight by the DAT providers' competent authority, i.e. by EASA.
More concretely, if a DAT provider is requested to:

a) Release a tailored Data as part of a Navigation DB, a statement of conformity is required;

b) Release a DB containing tailored Data only, a statement of conformity is required;

c) Release a tailored Data as part of a test Navigation DB, no statement of conformity is required, only at a discretion of a DAT provider

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https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96124

Does the certification of DAT providers require renewal of the EASA certification or is it a one-off procedure? Following EASA certification, who will audit/monitor DAT providers?

Answer

EASA is the competent authority for the DAT providers. Following the certification process, upon receiving an application for the issuance of a certificate to a DAT provider, EASA needs to verify the DAT provider's compliance with the applicable requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/373. In this context, EASA may require any audits, inspections or assessments it finds necessary before issuing the certificate. The certificate shall be issued for an unlimited duration. The privileges of the activities that the DAT provider is approved to conduct are specified in the service provision conditions attached to the certificate.

In accordance with ATM/ANS.OR.A.025, DAT provider's certificate shall remain valid subject to:

(1) the DAT provider remaining in compliance with the applicable requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/373, including those concerning facilitating and cooperating for the purposes of the exercise of the powers of the competent authorities and those concerning the handling of findings as specified in points ATM/ANS.OR.A.050 and ATM/ANS.OR.A.055 respectively;

(2) the certificate not having been surrendered, suspended or revoked.

Having mentioned this, it could be concluded that EASA is the competent authority for the oversight of DAT providers in addition to its duties for the issuing of respective DAT providers' certificates.

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Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96125

Are VFR flight planning and navigation software under the scope Regulation (EU) 2017/373?

Answer

The provision of data services (= production of databases for certified a/c application/equipment by the DAT providers that would be subject to certification) has been extended from navigation databases (i.e. the current LoA holders' activities) to aeronautical databases' activities. To better illustrate the meaning of the DAT provider's scope of activities (DAT.OR.100), GM1 DAT.OR.100 Aeronautical data and information provides examples of databases provided by certified DAT providers.

In reference to the VFR Databases, GM1 DAT.OR.100(b)(3) is regarding applications/equipment installed on aircraft certified exclusively for VFR operations. In this context, only those databases used for primary navigation to meet the airspace usage requirements (for example, operations in the airspace where Precision Area Navigation (P-RNAV) is required) would be in the scope of the new DAT requirements.

More concretely, any VFR flight-planning software should be out of the scope of the products provided by certified DAT providers. In addition, as illustrated in GM1 DAT.OR.100, paragraph (b), the organisations putting these products in the market would not be required to be certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/373. However, it should be clarified that if the mentioned databases were to be fed/used on certified a/c application/equipment (exempted VFR cases addressed above), then the DAT providers would be subject to certification. To illustrate with an example, the airport moving map could be used a non-certified EFB application under operator responsibility, or could be fed into a certified aircraft application (covered by TC/STCs). Consequently, the latter case will fall into the regulation's scope.

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Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96126

Does any software application used inside an EFB, which is not part of the certified aircraft configuration, require certified DAT?

Answer

Any software applications not loaded into certified aircraft applications, e.g. used inside an EFB do not require to be provided by certified DAT providers.

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/96127

When flying VFR, what kind of databases fall under scope of Regulation (EU) 2017/373 and which ones are excluded?

Answer

For specific flight into designated airspace or the use of specific procedures like SID, STAR, LPV approach, RNAV 1, there are minimum equipment requirements where a database is used to describe the flight path. Those need to be provided by a certified DAT provider.

However, there could be another scenario where the GPS is not used as primary navigation, e.g. in a pure VFR environment. Consequently, the database fed into the GPS could be provided by ‘non-certified’ DAT provider. In this latter case, the GPS database is excluded. The intention was to allow the use of tools in support of the VFR only certified aircraft while demanding oversight for databases used for mandatory navigation functions.

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Which changes require prior approval and which changes do not require prior approval?

Answer

Competent authority may grant a privilege to service provider(s) to implement changes to its management system and/or safety management system without prior approval. ATM/ANS.AR.C.025 regulates the competent authority to approve a procedure defining the scope of changes that do not require prior approval and description how such changes will be notified and managed). The mirroring requirements for the service providers are laid down in ATM/ANS.OR.A.040, especially in (b) and for further details please consult AMC2 ATM/ANS.OR.A.040(b) 'PROCEDURE FOR CHANGES NOT REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL' and GM1 ATM/ANS.OR.A.040(b).The procedure has to be defined by the service provider(s) and approved by the competent authority. The competent authority should evaluate depending on the maturity and reliability of the service provider, what kind of changes could be included this procedure. Changes that should always require prior approval are e.g. changes to the scope of services, significant change to the operational environment, etc. Changes that the competent authority could allow service provider to implement without prior approval are e.g. nominated personnel/post holders, QMS revisions, etc.

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