

## Aviation Group Client Update

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### FAA CANCELS TSO-C91a

Today, the FAA announced that it intends to cancel TSO-C91a, Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) equipment. No new TSO-C91a designs or production will be approved. However, existing production according to current TSO authorization (TSOA) will not be affected. Existing TSOA may still be installed, subject to approval, and applications for new airworthiness approvals will be processed. TSO-C91a ELTs will continue to satisfy the 14 CFR 91.207 ELT equipage requirements.

New TSO authorizations for ELTs should be accomplished to TSO-C126a (or later revision), 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT). The 406 MHz ELT technology is an advance over the older 121.5 MHz ELT technology. TSO-C126a incorporates technology that makes the ELT equipment more accurate and reliable than the 121.5 MHz ELT equipment built to the minimum performance standards in TSO-C91a. Improvements include:

- global satellite coverage;
- a unique beacon identification (which is required to be registered so that if an alert is launched, rescuers can confirm whether the distress is real, who is in distress, and where the search should begin);
- 406 MHz ELTs can be received by geostationary satellites which are always visible and provide instantaneous alerting; and
- increased position accuracy that reduces the search area to less than two nautical miles in radius.

In addition, 406 MHz ELTs which have a GPS position input can potentially reduce the search area to within 100 yards of the accident site.

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