Summary of consultation on CD 1603OS - Changes to aircraft weight and balance requirements - CAO 100.7

CASA published Consultation Draft (CD) 1603OS - Changes to aircraft weight and balance requirements - Draft CAO 100.7 on the CASA website from 5 April 2018 to 19 April 2018.

About this consultation

The consultation outlined minor changes to the permitted variation of rotorcraft centre of gravity (CG) limits and the calibration requirements for weighing scales in Civil Aviation Order 100.7. The consultation survey asked two questions; one related to whether the options available to industry for the calibration of scales provided adequate flexibility, the second related to the extension of the duration interval for calibration of scales.

Respondents

CASA received a total of eight submissions; six respondents consented to having their comments published on the CASA website.

Summary of feedback

Calibration options

Six of the eight respondents agreed that the options for the calibration were sufficient for industry use. One respondent who answered 'not applicable' subsequently did not provide any comment and one disagreed with the proposed paragraph changes.

Interval extension

Three of eight respondents agreed with the extension of the duration interval for calibration of scales without comment. Three respondents agreed, but with proposed modifications or clarifications. One respondent who answered 'not applicable' subsequently did not provide any comment and one disagreed with the proposed changes.

One respondent that agreed with a modification or clarification suggested the ability to extend the calibration interval, 'provided the history of past calibration results show no fluctuations or long-term drift in the error figures'.

The respondent who disagreed with the proposal stated, 'there was not sufficient evidence to extend the calibration period to two years'.

Additional comment

A respondent pointed out that there was a mistake in the reference to the National Measurement Institute, mistakenly written as the 'National Measurements Institute'.

Next steps

CASA has corrected the CAO 100.7 Amendment to reflect the correct term for the National Measurement Institute.

CASA believes that the available options for calibration of scales are adequate and provide flexibility for industry to be able to effectively calibrate weighing scales.

CASA continues to support alleviation from the one-year calibration requirement. However, CASA agrees with the comments from the consultation that a time-based extension (from one year to two years) does not consider multiple factors beyond the time between two calibration events, such as usage, equipment types etc.

CASA has not extended the interval at this time. CASA will include this subject in the wider regulatory reform projects.