

No. 2813

Airport Databases

Application

This Service Letter applies to Airport Databases prior and subsequent to Cycle 0713.

Description

Universal Avionics uses data provided by Jeppesen to create its Airport Databases. Universal Avionics uses the airport datum code to convert all airport database locations to the WGS-84 coordinate system. Approximately 700 airports out of over 10,000 worldwide are identified as having an unknown datum code. This means the coordinate system used to survey the latitude and longitude is not provided and therefore the location cannot be converted to WGS-84.

The airports with an unknown datum code includes most or all of the airports in Russia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, China, Ghana, Somalia, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Libya, Israel, Cambodia, and Laos as well as many other countries in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Pacific, South America and the South Pacific.

Prior to cycle 0713 of the Airport Database, Universal Avionics mapped these airports to the International Ellipsoid. Universal Avionics removed the approximately 700 airports with an unknown datum for the initial processing and distribution of cycle 0713 of the Airport Database. However, rather than filtering these airports out of the database and causing any inconvenience for its customers, Universal Avionics has chosen to leave the affected airports in the database in future airport data updates.

When using Airport Databases released both prior and subsequent to cycle 0713, TAWS may give nuisance alerts and/or fail to alert at or near these unknown airports. This affects the TAWS departure/approach Forward Looking Terrain Alert (FLTA), Required Obstacle Clearance (ROC) reductions, and Premature Descent Alert (PDA) functions. This is all due to the lack of a known conversion from the unknown datum to the WGS-84 datum required by TAWS. The TAWS functions, Enroute FLTA and GPWS Modes 1-6 are not affected.

Because the airport data within the Airport Database is provided to Jeppesen by state governments, customers are encouraged to contact their state government and request that the datum conversion be made available for the unknown airports per ICAO requirements.

A complete list of airports with an unknown datum is available on the Universal Avionics website www.uasc.com/customer/navdb_index.asp?type=navdbfaq.

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