

Continuing Airworthiness Notice – 34-006

Global Position System (GPS) Receivers – Week Number Reset

4 March 2019



Issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in the interests of aviation safety. A Continuing Airworthiness Notice (CAN) is intended to alert, educate, and make recommendations to the aviation community. A CAN contains non-regulatory information and guidance that does not meet the criteria for an Airworthiness Directive (AD). The inspections and practices described in this CAN must still be carried out in accordance with the applicable NZCAR Parts 21, 43 and 91.

CAN numbering is by ATA Chapter followed by a sequential number for the next CAN in that ATA Chapter.

Applicability:

All operators with aircraft fitted with a GPS receiver.

Purpose:

This Continuing Airworthiness Notice (CAN) is issued to alert affected operators that the GPS week number will roll over from 1023 to zero on the 6th of April. The last week zero was in August 1999.

Background:

The GPS uses a 10-bit field to encode the week number in each time message, which has a maximum value of 1024. Once this limit is reached the GPS receiver resets the week number to zero and starts recounting.

Recommendation:

Many GPS receiver manufacturers have prepared for the rollover event and their receivers will operate without any issues. However, older receivers may not reset the week number to zero as expected. Operators with older GPS receivers should contact their avionics maintenance provider for guidance.

Enquiries regarding this Continuing Airworthiness Notice should be made to:

Phillip Scanlan
Airworthiness Engineer Avionics
Email: phillip.scanlan@caa.govt.nz
Phone: 04 560 9106