

Unique Personal Call Signs

If your aircraft has an Approved Identifiable Paint Scheme, you can now apply to have a personal call sign.

Photo courtesy of Mike Wills



Mike Wills, of Havelock North, is the nine-year owner of a Scottish Aviation Bulldog, registration WUF. Having an Approved Identifiable Paint Scheme in the RAF red and white, he wanted a unique personalised call sign, partially to help with the work he does in the Air Training Corps.

A Squadron Leader in the New Zealand Cadet Forces, from time to time he takes cadets up for a flight, to give them experience flying in such an aircraft.

“Being able to have a call sign – Bulldog 57 – just gives it more of a military flavour. It adds to the whole ATC experience,” says Mike.

In New Zealand we have a small number of aircraft with a distinctive paint scheme representing historic designs.

These designs can be approved by the CAA to allow the paint scheme to be used as a means of identification, instead of the usual three letter registration.

Even when the three letter registration isn't physically displayed on the aircraft, when making radio calls the Civil Aviation Rules require you to use your aircraft make and registration as a call sign (rule 91.249).

This can make it harder for interested parties to identify your aircraft. Let's say, for example, you're travelling with one or more similar aircraft to an airshow. Three Harvard aircraft, all with similar approved paint schemes, but none

displaying their three letter registration. How do you tell them apart?

Driven by the risk of possible misidentification of aircraft in a number of situations, an Exemption (15/EXE/43) has been issued by the Director of Civil Aviation. The Exemption is available on the CAA web site, www.caa.govt.nz, “Rules – Exemptions”.

Also on the web site is a list of all aircraft using unique personal call signs. This gives interested parties the ability to look up aircraft using their personal call sign to aid identification.

The Exemption allows certain aircraft with an Approved Identifiable Paint Scheme to apply for a personalised call sign. The call sign will belong to the aircraft and can be used by any pilot flying that aircraft.

But wait... not every aircraft will qualify. There are three strict conditions to meet before you can make use of the Exemption.

In short, the conditions are:

- » The aircraft must have a CAA approval for the paint scheme; and
- » The call sign must include the aircraft make or model, and any alphanumeric identification displayed on the aircraft; and
- » The Director must accept the proposed call sign.

For more information on Identifiable Paint Schemes, see Part 47 and its accompanying Advisory Circular AC47-1.

If you meet the criteria for the Exemption and would like to apply to have your personal call sign accepted by the Director, use CAA form 24047/04, and complete only Section 4, at the bottom. ■

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2016 Courses		
City	Date	Location
Queenstown	11 to 12 May	Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Queenstown Lakefront, 27 Frankton Road
Auckland	29 to 30 June	Jet Park Airport Hotel and Conference Centre, 63 Westney Road, Mangere
Tauranga	24 to 25 August	Oceanside Resort and Twin Towers, 1 Maunganui Road, Mt Maunganui
Wellington	26 to 27 October	Civil Aviation Authority, Level 15 Asteron Centre, 55 Featherston Street, Wellington

Register Online

You can register for a Maintenance Controller Course online, see www.caa.govt.nz, “Seminars and Courses”.

We can't guarantee your place on the course until payment is made.

Closing date for enrolment is three weeks before the course. That's because pre-course training notes need to be distributed and study completed before the course. ■