



ALL OPERATORS LETTER (FSG 001)

Ref: NCAA/FSG/AOL/19/001

Date: 5th March, 2019

To: All Aircraft Operators who use global positioning system (GPS) receivers in on-board systems, and Air Navigation Service Providers.

From: Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority

Attn: Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers

Subject: GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) WEEK COUNTER ROLLOVER EVENT (6 APRIL 2019)

Background

The purpose of this FSG AOL is to raise stakeholders' awareness concerning the potential adverse effects of the GPS week rollover on systems that are used for navigation or time synchronization. The GPS provides position, navigation and timing information to many systems used in aviation: on-board Global Navigation Satellite Systems receivers, Flight Management Systems, Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning Systems, Air Traffic Management Systems, and Surveillance Systems.

Among other messages, the GPS transmits the date and time in a specific format that consists of the current week and the current number of seconds in the week. However, the field that contains the week number is a 10-bit binary number. This limits the range of the week number to 0 – 1023, or 1024 total weeks. The GPS week zero started 06 January 1980, and the first reset of the 1024 weeks counter happened on 21 August 1999. The next reset of the week counter from 1023 to zero will be on 06 April 2019.

To mitigate any adverse effects of the GPS week rollover, GPS receiver manufacturers often shift the 1023 window with reference to another date within the receiver. One common method is to use the date of the firmware as a reference. Using this method, the problem could also occur, but on a different date and in a different year from the actual GPS rollover date. More details can be obtained from the US Homeland Security Memorandum. As the GPS time is ahead of UTC time by 18 seconds, the GPS week rollover will occur on Saturday 06 April 2019, at 23:59:42 UTC. At this time, the safety concern does not warrant the issuance of an operational directive.

The content of this letter is meant for the addressee only. If you receive this letter by error of circulation, please do not hesitate to return it to the NCAA

Corporate Headquarters Nnamdi Azikwe Int'l Airport, Domestic Wing, Abuja.

Tel: +234 (1) 7610041, +234 (1) 7610042, +234 (1) 7610043, +234 (1) 7610044, **Tel/Fax:** +234 807 729 1113,

Lagos Office: AVIATION HOUSE, Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA) Domestic Wing, Ikeja.

Tel: +234 (1) 4721521 **Fax:** +234 (1) 2790421 **Consumer Protection:** +234 (1) 7607286 (24hrs); **Airworthiness:** +234 (1) 4734482;

Licensing: +234 (1) 7739972; **Operations:** +234 (1) 4714339; **Switch Board:** +234 (1) 7610036, +234 (1) 7610037.

Email: info@ncaa.gov.ng **Website:** www.ncaa.gov.ng

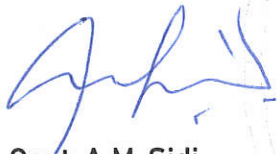
Actions Required

In order to mitigate any safety risk related to the GPS week rollover, NCAA hereby advises aircraft operators/aviation GPS users to take the following proactive measures:

- ✓ Be aware of the potential impact from the rollover in terms of incorrect date/time information;
- ✓ To investigate and ascertain their dependencies on GPS for obtaining time/date;
- ✓ Assure that the latest software update is installed on potentially affected GPS receiver(s);
- ✓ Request information from the GPS receiver manufacturer regarding its robustness against the GPS week rollover; and
- ✓ If possible, perform tests that simulate the GPS week rollover, e.g. using a GPS simulator.

If it cannot be confirmed that a particular type of GPS receiver is not affected by the GPS week rollover, it should be assumed that a failure of the systems that rely on data from that GPS receiver might occur, and appropriate mitigation measures should be established.

Please accept the warm regards of the Director General, NCAA.



Capt. A.M. Sidi
Director, Operations & Training
For: Director General/CEO