

FLYING ABROAD CHECKLIST AND GUIDANCE

The following is intended to be used as a pilot check list for touring abroad, it also adds additional information to aid in your planning and what to take. Everyone will have differing needs but for the first timer it gives a start point.

Prior preparation is the key to a successful foreign trip, careful planning done in the UK lowers the stress levels for certain! Having a clear objective and end destination in mind gives you something to aim for and keeps you motivated and focussed.

Documents to take

Passport and GHIC

All aircraft documents, including Permit to Fly; I take high quality copies.

Pilot's licence.

Radio licence.

Radio installation licence.

Insurance certificate plus copy to give to other party.

Medical certificate.

CAA Leaflet 11: Interception Procedures.

CAA Leaflet 20c: VFR Flight Plans.

AFPEX: Flight Planning Guide.

Other Document considerations

Euros and foreign currency.

Credit cards – many banks require prior notification.

Holiday Insurance.

Charts and Airfield information.

Carry passwords for Sky Demon, Onlinegar, AFPEX, credit cards and the like.

Any authorisations granted for foreign travel.

Blank Flight plan and GAR forms if not filing electronically.

Top Tips

If you use electronic mapping as your primary navigation means, many purchase the 1:1million maps to reduce costs and stay legal although they have obvious limitations as your primary means of navigation.

Crib sheet of simplified radio calls in French are readily available on line.

International dialling codes.

Watch displaying UTC time, useful if you cross many time zones.

Standard aircraft screw in tie downs are ineffective in hard packed and flinty surfaces you will find as you head south in Europe, many carry drive in anchors.

If you take your driving licence and intend hiring then remember to apply for your Share Driving Licence passcode.

GAR Form

Carry the Completion Guidance Notes including Annex D Police Force contact details.

Submit via email to: ncu@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Or Fax to: 0870 240 3738

Also submit via: Flight planning programmes such as SkyDemon, AOPA web site or Onlinegar site.

Common Travel Area 12 hours in advance for both Outbound and Inbound for flights between those areas nominated under the Terrorism Act 2000.

If going to/from the Channel Islands you must use a Certificate of Agreement or designated customs and excise airport.

For Europe 2 hours advance notification for Inbound and outbound.

Border Force Emergency GAR tel no: +44 (0)845 723 1110 (not to be used for CTA flights).

Flight Plan

Carry the CAA Safety Sense Leaflet 20c VFR Flight Plans to aid completion.

Submit via SkyDemon, AFPEX, AFTN

Or Fax to: 01489 612793

Minimum of 60 minutes prior to activation. Maximum lead time of 120 hours – remember to insert correct date of flight.

Activate via airfield ATSU, radio, or responsible person.

To activate the Flight Plan and sound the alarm for non arrival: Tel 0845 6010483 or 01489 612792

Make sure the Flight Plan is closed, this is not required on return to UK but make sure you have briefed a responsible person.

Foreign customs

The UK is outside of Schengen so you need to tell the other country you are arriving and departing. Check the national requirements and ensure you use an approved Customs port of entry, PN times vary greatly. Note: filing a Flight Plan does not meet this requirement. Once you are within the Schengen zone then travel between countries does not require Customs clearance but a Flight Plan is still required.

Useful telephone numbers

Distress and Diversion Cell tel no: 01489 612406.

Airwatch to report suspected illegal activity: 0800 595000

Closing a Flight Plan in France: +33 156 301301 (English spoken).