Interception of civil aircraft
010 Air Law and ATC Procedures › 05 Rules of the air

QUESTION

What do you do first when intercepted?

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ANSWER

Follow the interceptor's instructions at once, and answer its visual signals.

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QUESTION

Which frequency do you call first when intercepted?

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ANSWER

121.5 MHz, the emergency frequency. If there is no contact and it is practicable, repeat the call on 243 MHz.

SERA.11015(b)(3); GM1 SERA.11015, 5.1; Article 4a; SERA.11015(b)(3)

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QUESTION

Transponder code when intercepted?

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ANSWER

Mode A code 7700, if fitted, unless ATS instructs otherwise.

SERA.11015(b)(4)

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QUESTION

How many times is each phrase sent when there is no common language?

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ANSWER

Twice.

SERA.11015(e); SERA.11015(e); GM1 SERA.11015, 5.2

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QUESTION

Series 1 signal, what does the interceptor mean?

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ANSWER

You have been intercepted. Follow me.

SERA.11015, Table S11-1, Series 1

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QUESTION

Series 1 signal, how do you respond?

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ANSWER

Rock your wings and flash your navigation lights at irregular intervals. Then follow the interceptor.

SERA.11015, Table S11-1, Series 1

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QUESTION

Series 2 signal, what does the interceptor mean?

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ANSWER

You may proceed. The interceptor makes an abrupt climbing breakaway of 90° or more.

SERA.11015, Table S11-1, Series 2

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QUESTION

Series 2 signal, how do you respond?

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ANSWER

Rock your wings.

SERA.11015, Table S11-1, Series 2

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QUESTION

Series 3 signal, what does the interceptor mean?

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ANSWER

Land at this aerodrome. The interceptor lowers its landing gear, if fitted, and overflies the runway in use.

SERA.11015, Table S11-1, Series 3

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QUESTION

Series 3 signal, how do you respond?

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ANSWER

Respond the same way and follow the interceptor. Land if landing is considered safe after the overfly.

SERA.11015, Table S11-1, Series 3

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QUESTION

Radio instructions conflict with the interceptor's visual signals. What do you do?

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ANSWER

Ask for immediate clarification and continue to follow the interceptor's visual signals.

SERA.11015(c)

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Interception of civil aircraft
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QUESTION

Radio instructions conflict with the interceptor's radio instructions. What do you do?

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ANSWER

Ask for clarification and follow the interceptor's radio instructions.

SERA.11015(d)

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QUESTION

Whose instructions take priority while clarification is sought?

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ANSWER

The interceptor's, over other sources, including ATC.

SERA.11015(c), (d)

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QUESTION

Your signal to show that the aerodrome is inadequate?

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ANSWER

Raise the landing gear, if fitted, and flash the landing lights over the runway, at more than 1 000 ft and up to 2 000 ft above aerodrome level.

SERA.11015, Table S11-2, Series 4

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QUESTION

Your signal to show that you cannot comply?

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ANSWER

Switch all available lights on and off regularly, in a way distinct from flashing.

SERA.11015, Table S11-2, Series 5

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QUESTION

Your signal to show that you are in distress?

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ANSWER

Flash all available lights irregularly.

SERA.11015, Table S11-2, Series 6

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QUESTION

The interceptor phrase CALL SIGN means?

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ANSWER

What is your call sign?

SERA.11015(e), Table S11-3

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QUESTION

The intercepted phrase WILCO means?

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ANSWER

Understood, will comply.

SERA.11015(e), Table S11-3

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QUESTION

The intercepted phrase CAN NOT means?

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ANSWER

Unable to comply.

SERA.11015(e), Table S11-3

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QUESTION

The intercepted phrase AM LOST means?

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ANSWER

Position unknown.

SERA.11015(e), Table S11-3

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QUESTION

The intercepted phrase MAYDAY means?

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ANSWER

I am in distress.

SERA.11015(e), Table S11-3

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QUESTION

Which flight plan rule helps avoid the need for interception?

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ANSWER

A flight plan is required for flights in designated areas or along designated routes.

SERA.4001(b)(4)

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QUESTION

Is interception normal practice?

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ANSWER

No. It is a last resort, mainly for identification.

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QUESTION

What did the 2008 French microlight incident show?

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ANSWER

The occupants did not know the procedures. Their radio was not on 121.5 MHz.

SERA.11015(b)(3); GM1 SERA.11015, 5.1; Article 4a; BEA report 26-t080908 (published May 2011)

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QUESTION

Aircraft fitted with ADS-B or ADS-C, when intercepted?

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ANSWER

Select the emergency function, if available, unless ATS instructs otherwise.

SERA.11015(b)(5)

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QUESTION

Closest initial distance of the interceptor in Phase I, for visual identification?

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ANSWER

300 m.

GM1 SERA.11015, 2.3

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QUESTION

Range within which the interceptor suppresses pressure-altitude reporting?

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ANSWER

37 km (20 NM), for interceptors with SSR transponders when the intercepted aircraft has ACAS.

GM1 SERA.11015, 2.2

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QUESTION

When intercepted, must you notify ATS?

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ANSWER

Notify the appropriate ATS unit, if possible.

SERA.11015(b)(2)

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