

RA 3225 – Mandatory Air Traffic Control Instructions

Rationale

► *Mandatory Air Traffic Control (ATC) instructions are required in certain circumstances such as: maintaining Air Safety; operating in specific airspace; to ensure safe and efficient Air Traffic flow; and achieve operational objectives. Failure to issue or follow ATC instructions could disrupt Air Traffic flow, compromise operational goals, and increase Risk to Life. Clear, timely ATC instructions and pilot compliance are essential. Robust training, adherence to procedures, and effective communication mitigate these Risks.* ◀

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3225(1) Controllers' instructions to pilots **shall** be mandatory in specified circumstances.

Acceptable Means of Compliance 3225(1)

Mandatory Air Traffic Control Instructions

1. **Mandatory Instructions.** Controllers and pilots **should** consider ATC instructions to be mandatory in the following circumstances:

- a. All flights within Controlled Airspace (CAS) under Instrument Flight Rules, and flights within CAS under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) within Class B, C and D.
- b. ► *When under a Radar Control Service within the UK Flight Information Region (FIR).* ◀
- c. Military Aircraft flying within a Military Air Traffic Zone (MATZ) or Carrier Control Zone (CCZ)¹.
- d. When taxiing Aircraft on the Apron or Manoeuvring Area anywhere on a military Aerodrome unless local Aerodrome Orders make specific alternative provision.

Guidance Material 3225(1)

Mandatory Air Traffic Control Instructions

2. **Mandatory Instructions.** ► *In accordance with RA 2115², the Aircraft Commander remains entirely responsible for the Safety of the Air System, its occupants and equipment while they hold custody of it. Controllers need to be aware that if an instruction is issued which, in the Aircraft Commander's opinion, could compromise the Safety of the Aircraft, the Commander is likely to inform the Controller of the potentially unsafe action. Blind compliance with unsafe mandatory instructions is neither expected nor consistent with good Airmanship.* ◀
3. Other than in the circumstances described at para 1, Controllers will not normally issue mandatory instructions; however, they may relay instructions of an operational nature (eg diversion instructions) on behalf of an operating authority when ordered or authorized to do so. In such cases Controllers will, if time permits, specify the authority.
4. **Advisory Instructions.** ► *Any instruction that is not mandatory, as outlined above may be deemed advisory. A Controller providing advisory instruction* ◀ *may assume that a pilot receiving an Air Traffic Service will comply with such instructions unless they state otherwise.*

¹ ► CCZ is an area of defined dimensions, operated under the same rules as a MATZ. The dimensions of the CCZ are discussed in BRd768, but will be promulgated in Exercise Special Instructions (SPINs). ◀

² Refer to RA 2115 – Aircraft Commanders.

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