

ETS Home Base

As a free service for global business aircraft operators, Universal Weather and Aviation has launched an EU-ETS Reporting Resource Center (www.eu-ets.aero). “There are monitoring plans being sold for up to €6,000. We’ve developed a free tool to help operators manage their emissions,” explains Adam Hartley, Supervisor, Regulatory Services Team, Universal Weather and Aviation.

The Resource Center offers information, tools, how-to videos, sample reporting plans, completed reports, and more—resources useful for operators no matter their level of understanding or experience with the EU-ETS.

“Since the EU announced its ETS plans last spring, some confusing and conflicting information has been circulated, leaving operators unsure of what they need to do to comply,” says Laura Everington, Manager, Regulatory Services. “Things are moving fast and the fluidity of the situation makes it difficult to track.

“Universal developed the EU-ETS Reporting Resource Center to serve as a ‘home base’ that operators can turn to for free information and important updates on all things EU-ETS. Whether an operator is just getting started and doesn’t know where to turn, or is ready to begin recording emissions data for the voluntary EU-ETS Benchmarking Programme and mandatory emissions monitoring programme, there is ample free information and resources to help them along.”

Starting Today

While the 2012 Mandatory Compliance date is the one most often bandied about, annual emissions reporting actually began on 1 January 2010 for the EU-ETS pre-trading periods. The pre-trading period is in effect throughout 2010 and 2011, during which annual emission reporting is required but carbon offset credits won’t need to be purchased or traded.

As Universal Weather and Aviation’s Resource Center states, an operator’s initial third-party verified report must be submitted to the Member State’s regulatory authority no later than 31 March 2011. Beginning with the 2012 annual emissions report, operators will be required to purchase or apply carbon credits to retroactively offset all CO₂ emissions.

“I strongly encourage operators to take part in the current voluntary EU-ETS Benchmarking Programme,” Adam Hartley tells *FlyCorporate*. “Doing so could result in receiving free allowances up to 3 to 10% of their total operations per year, which could make a big difference over eight years. I don’t see why anyone wouldn’t want to volunteer for this!”

A Global Problem Needs a Global Solution

On a broader level, aviation continues to push for a sectoral approach overseen by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to manage emissions targets globally in the future. If eventually granted, it would override the regional EU-ETS approach all together.

“Aviation is an international industry. Aircraft cross borders constantly and often many borders each day,” explains IBAC’s Don Spruston. “If you have different rules regarding emissions targets and a different scheme every place you go, it becomes an administrative nightmare.

“We’re advocating for a common emissions target and standard around the world. It may well turn out to be an emissions trading scheme, but at least it’d be applied evenly worldwide.” ■



FC Podcast:
Business Aviation’s
Commitment to the Environment

[Click here](#) to listen to the entire interview with Don Spruston, Director General of the International Business Aviation Council.

((FC Podcast))