

Chronology of CASA Actions

04 Jan 08

A Special Flight Permit (SFP) application to ferry an Australian registered Cessna 208 aircraft VH-NRP from Koh Samui Thailand to Broome Australia was received by the CASA Perth office.

CASA Perth office spoke with Mr Darren Johnson, a representative of Kimberley Seaplanes. Mr Johnson asked questions about and related their plans to bring the aircraft from Thailand to Australia. CASA officers advised that the Darwin office would be dealing with the application for the SFP. He was advised that the Certificate of Registration holder would have to advise every country that the aircraft will fly over that it was operating under an SFP. The application was subsequently passed to the Darwin office for action

07 Jan 08

Darren Johnson of Kimberley Seaplanes left a message with the CASA Darwin office (Airworthiness inspector (AWI) Stallard) advising the aircraft was de registered in Asia and required a SFP for the 08 Jan 08 (the next day) and left his contact number.

AWI Stallard contacted Mr Johnson on the same day. The discussion included why Kimberley Seaplanes were required to obtain an export Certificate of Airworthiness as they did not wish to do this. AWI Stallard advised that he did not know what the overseas regulatory requirements were. Mr Johnson advised that he knew someone in the system there.

On the SFP issue, AWI Stallard advised Mr Johnson that he could only issue an SFP for Australian territory; i.e. from Australian territorial limits to Broome. He advised that they would have to get permission to over fly each country the aircraft crossed. There was some discussion as to why he could only issue it for Australian territory and AWI Stallard advised that it was because the aircraft no longer met ICAO Annex 8 requirements and he couldn't authorize flight over a foreign country. The call ended with Mr Johnson telling AWI Stallard to hold off on the application (or words to that effect).

AWI Stallard does not recall hearing from them again nor was any payment for the SFP received. So the SFP application was not progressed further.

AWI Stallard claims that at no time did he advise Kimberley Seaplanes that they did not need a Special Flight Permit and Kimberley Seaplanes have repeatedly been told that if they fly using a SFP they need permission from the countries they intend to fly over.

08 Jan 08

The Australia Certificate of Registration was issued by CASA to the aircraft owner Ms Mary Cummins of Mermaid Beach Queensland (still to be operated by Kimberley Seaplanes)

22 Jan 08

AWI Stallard realised that he could in fact issue a SFP from Koh Samui to Broome. At about 11:00 am (CST) AWI Stallard called Kimberley Seaplanes and left a message stating "I gave you the wrong information about the special flight permit, I could have issued it from your port of departure but you still need to get permission to over fly other countries. As I have not heard from you I presume you have found someone to give you the right guff [overseas Authority]"

The incident occurred later that day.

15 Feb 08

A Special Flight Permit was issued from the Darwin Office to ferry the aircraft from Singapore to Broome. This was not used. The aircraft may still have been detained by the Singaporean Authorities.

27 Feb 08

Mr Rhys Thomas was charged by the Singaporean authorities with flying an Australian Registered aircraft in Singapore without a Certificate of Airworthiness

10 March 08

An application for an Australian Certificate of Airworthiness was received. This was not processed at the request of the applicant on 13 March 08.

07 April 08

A special flight permit was issued to ferry the aircraft from Singapore to Broome for operations in Australian airspace. The aircraft arrived in Broome sometime after this.