

**IGC-APPROVALS FOR GNSS FLIGHT RECORDERS**  
**followed by**  
**HISTORY OF IGC-APPROVAL ACTIVITIES**

*Updated 12 July 2022, addition of Oudie-N-IGC FR from Naviter*

**1. Contents**

**1.1 Tables**

Pages 1-3, Types of IGC-approved GNSS Flight Recorders (FRs) with links to IGC-approval document, followed by notes on Motor Glider engine recording, IGC-approval levels, Grandfather Rights", and Competitions.

Page 4, List of manufacturers with web references

**1.2. GFAC activity list** - List of dates of IGC-approval documents, initial issue and updates

**1.3. History** - of GNSS recording in IGC

**2. Web References including the latest version of this IGC-approval table**

**2.1 FAI/IGC web site.** Select and open < [www.fai.org/igc-documents](http://www.fai.org/igc-documents) > , scroll down and select "Flight Recorders", then go to: "IGC-approved Flight Recorders - Approval Documents" , and select: "IGC-approval Documents for all IGC-approved Flight Recorders" for the complete list from which individual documents can be opened. As well as the complete list, other data that can be selected include "IGC Shell Program", "Technical Specification", "FR Manufacturers without DLL", that can be selected as required.

**2.2 GFAC Chairman's web site for FR documents:** < [www.ukiws.uk/GFAC](http://www.ukiws.uk/GFAC) > and select "IGC-approvals"

**TABLE OF IGC-APPROVED FLIGHT RECORDERS**

**62 main types, 79 including different models within types**

*The table lists types of IGC-approved Flight Recorder in alphabetical order of Manufacturer.*

*Production and modification status should be confirmed with the manufacturer. See the notes after the table. Manufacturers marked with an asterisk (\*) are understood to be no longer making IGC FRs - see Note 1 on page 4*

s/n	Manufacturer (* = no longer making IGC FRs)	Type of Recorder	In Production	IGC-approval Levels 1-3 (see note 3 below)	Engine recording System, (see note 1 below)	Date of latest approval document Click to download
1	Aircotec *	XC Profi (Gliders)	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Aircotec ENL	<a href="#">30 June 2020</a>
2	Cambridge *	CAI 10	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Cambridge ENL 1	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
3	Cambridge *	CAI 20	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Cambridge ENL 1	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
4	Cambridge *	CAI 25	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Cambridge ENL 1	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
5	Cambridge *	CAI 302	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Cambridge ENL 2	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
6	Cambridge *	CAI 302A (without display)	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Cambridge ENL 2	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
7	ClearNav Instruments (ex Nielsen Kellerman* product, see Page 4)	ClearNav-IGC Version 1	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	ClearNav ENL	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
8	ClearNav Instruments	CNV-IGC	Yes	1 (All Flights)	ClearNav ENL	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
9	ClearNav Instruments	ClearNav II	Yes	1 (All Flights)	ClearNav ENL	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
10	DSX *	T-Advisor (with DSX Traffic Alert function)	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Not fitted	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
11	DSX *	Tracer (T-advisor without Traffic Alert)	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Not fitted	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
12	DSX *	SaFly (with satellite-based tracking system)	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Not fitted	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
13	EDIA Tec	ECW100F (Flarm firmware)	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Triadis ENL	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
14	EW *	microRecorder	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	EW ENL	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
	Filser *	Pre-2008 Filser FRs listed under LX Navigation (LX20/21, DX50, LX5000)	No			
15	FLARM	Flarm-IGC	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Triadis ENL	<a href="#">27 Oct 2020</a>
16	FLARM	PowerFlarm-IGC	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Triadis ENL	<a href="#">22 Oct 2020</a>
17	Garrecht *	Volkslogger VL1.0	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Garrecht ENL	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
18	IMI	Erixx V1.0	Yes	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Not fitted	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>
19	Logstream	FR1	No	1 (All Flights)	Logstream ENL	<a href="#">20 May 2020</a>

20	LXNAV	FlarmMouseIGC (Flarm firmware)	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXNAV ENL	24 May 2020
21	LXNAV	Flarm PowerMouse-IGC (Flarm firmware)	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXNAV ENL	24 May 2020
22	LXNAV	Nano	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL	24 May 2020
23	LXNAV	Nano 3 (with screen)	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL	24 May 2020
24	LXNAV	Nano 4	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL & internal MOP sensor	24 May 2020
25	LXNAV	LX8000 series, models 8000, 8030, 8040 & 8080 including Flarm function	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL and optional external MOP sensor	24 March 2021
26	LXNAV	LX9000, and LX9000F with Flarm	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL and optional external MOP sensor	24 May 2020
27	LXNAV	LX9000HAFR HAFR=High Altitude FR for altitude claims over 15,000 m	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL	24 May 2020
28	LXNAV	LX9050, and LX9050F with Flarm	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL and optional external MOP sensor	24 May 2020
29	LXNAV	LX9070, and LX9070F with Flarm	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL and optional external MOP sensor	24 May 2020
31	LXNAV	S-10	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL	24 May 2020
32	LXNAV	S-100	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXNAV ENL	24 May 2020
33	LX Navigation	Colibri II	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
34	LX Navigation	Colibri V1/4 with Firmware up to V7	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
35	LX Navigation	Colibri V1/4 with Firmware V8 and later	Yes	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
36	LX Navigation	Colibri X	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
37	LX Navigation	DX50 (& pre-2008 version under Filser name)	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Not fitted	24 March 2021
38	LX Navigation	LX20 & 21 (& pre-2008 versions under Filser name)	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	24 March 2021
39	LX Navigation	LX5000 (& pre-2008 version under Filser name)	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	24 March 2021
40	LX Navigation	LX7000	No	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
41	LX Navigation	LX7007 & 7007F with Flarm	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
42	LX Navigation	LXN Flarm Eagle & Flarm Eagle Mobile	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
43	LX Navigation	LX Eos and Eos 80	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL & optional external MOP sensor	24 May 2020
44	LX Navigation	LX Era 57 and Era 80	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL & optional external MOP sensor	24 May 2020
45	LX Navigation	LX 10000	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL & optional external MOP sensor	24 May 2020
46	LX Navigation	LX MOP IGC	Yes	1 (All Flights)	LXN ENL & internal high freq MOP sensor	24 May 2020
47	LX Navigation	LXN Mini Box Flarm-IGC (Flarm firmware)	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
48	LX Navigation	LXN Red Box Flarm-IGC (Flarm firmware)	Yes	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	24 May 2020
49	Naviter	Oudie-IGC	Yes	1 (All Flights)	Naviter ENL	20 May 2020
50	Naviter	Oudie-N-IGC	Yes	1 (All Flights)	Naviter ENL	12 July 2022
51	New Technologies*	NTE Easy	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	NTE ENL	20 May 2020
52	New Technologies*	NTE Easy Matchbox	No	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	NTE ENL	20 May 2020
53	PressFinish	GCA-IGC	Yes	1 (All Flights)	PFE ENL	20 May 2020
54	RC Electronics	Fenix and FenixN	Yes	1 (All Flights)	RCE ENL	14 May 2022
55	Scheffel *	Themis	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Not fitted	20 May 2020
56	Streamline Digital Instruments (SDI)	PosiGraph V1.0	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	20 May 2020
57	Streamline Digital Instruments (SDI)	PosiGraph V2	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	LXN ENL	20 May 2020

58	Triadis	Altair RU1	Yes	1 (All Flights)	Triadis ENL	20 May 2020
59	Triadis	Triadis RU2	Yes	2 (All Badges & Distance Diplomas)	Triadis ENL	20 May 2020
60	Triadis	Triadis RU3	Yes	1 (All Flights)	Triadis ENL	20 May 2020
61	Zander *	GP940	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Zander Vibration system	20 May 2020
62	Zander/SDI *	GP941	No	3 (Badges up to Diamonds)	Zander ENL	20 May 2020
s/n	<b>FR Manufacturer</b>	<b>FR Type</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Approval Level</b>	<b>Engine Recording</b>	<b>Document Date</b>

#### Notes:

1. **FR Types no longer IGC-approved.** Approval has been withdrawn from several early FR types and they do not appear in the above table. This is because since the IGC-approval system started in 1995, security requirements have increased. Some early designs had low security of the FR itself or incorrect flight data had been found in IGC files. The following types of FR are no longer approved, for detail click for a PDF file :  
[EW Models A-D](#)                      [Peschges VP8](#)                      [Print Technik GR1000](#)

2. **Levels of Approval.** There are three levels of IGC-approval for different types of flight. These are allocated by GFAC at the time of initial IGC-approval, and revised as security conditions change with time, where later testing shows different results, or other problems are found with the type of FR. They depend on compliance with the IGC FR Specification, particularly security aspects such as resistance to hacking or data corruption in IGC files. See para 5 for Competitions and para 6 for "Grandfather Rights". The definitive rules are in Annex B to the Sporting Code for Gliding (SC3B), currently in para 1.1.4.

2.1 **Level 1 - All Flights including World Records.** This applies to FRs that comply with all of the provisions of the IGC Technical Specification at the time that the approval is first given, and sustain close to that standard with time.

2.2 **Level 2 - All IGC Badges & Distance Diplomas.** This applies to types of FRs that do not fulfill the Specification in a few areas at the time of approval, but it has been decided that they be used for flights except for World Records. It is also used for old types of FRs that initially were at Level 1, but due to increases in the conditions of the FR Specification, are no longer eligible for the World Record level. For competition flights, see para 5 below.

2.3 **Level 3 - Diamonds.** This is for FAI Silver, Gold and Diamond badge flights only. It is used for types of FRs that have significant differences from the Specification at the time of approval, but it is decided that a limited approval can be given rather than no approval at all. It is also used for old types of FRs that initially were at one of the higher Levels, but due to increases in the conditions of the FR Specification, are no longer eligible for their original approval level. For competition flights, see para 5 below.

3. **Engine Recording.** This is covered in each IGC-approval document, including figures recorded in GFAC tests.

3.1 **IGC ENL System.** The Environmental Noise Level (ENL) system is inside the FR and records low-frequency acoustic noise mainly between 100 and 200 Hz, adding three ENL numbers from 010 to 999 to each fix in the IGC file. In recent FRs, an ENL of 000 indicates that there is something wrong with the ENL system in that FR. The ENL system is intended to detect running of engines such as two-strokes that produce significant low frequency noise in the cockpit. It can also be used for other types of engines if the FR is mounted close to the source of engine noise and sufficiently high ENL figures are produced. The ENL system does not require wiring outside the FR or any other actions by the pilot.

3.2 **Low-ENL installations and the extra MOP sensor.** Where a FR and engine installation produces low ENL values that make it difficult to differentiate between some aspects of soaring and when the engine is producing a small amount of forward thrust, there are 2 alternatives:

- (1) Position the FR close to the engine, propeller or jet pipe and check that high ENL figures are always produced when any forward thrust is produced,  
or
- (2) Use a type of FR that includes a remote sensor working under the MOP (Means of Propulsion) code so that high MOP is recorded whenever any forward thrust is generated. Some MOP systems use a cable connected to the FR so that the sensor can be placed close to the engine, others have a special MOP sensor inside the FR itself with different characteristics to the low-frequency ENL system, such as a high frequency sensor designed to record the running of jet engines. In these cases, three MOP numbers are recorded in the IGC file in addition to ENL, see Annex B to the Sporting Code (SC3B), currently para 1.4.2.4.

4. **Flarm Traffic Alert System.** In some FRs, the proprietary Flarm (Flight Alarm) traffic alert system is fitted in addition to the main systems of the FR and is described in the above table as "with extra Flarm function". This includes the PowerFlarm (PF) variant. In some other FRs, the named manufacturer makes the case in which the primary firmware is a Flarm module, and Validation of IGC files is through the Flarm program IGC-FLA.dll. Such FRs are described above as "uses Flarm firmware".

5. **Competition Flights.** Annex A to the Sporting Code (SC3A) specifies the use of IGC-approved FRs in World Championships and other competitions that use Annex A rules. Unless specified otherwise, all approval levels may be used in Annex A competitions, subject to other rules for the competition. In competitions where SC3A is not used, other rules and procedures may be made by the National Airsport Control (NAC) authority or the competition organizer, but if FR levels differ from those in para 2 above, such competition flights will not be eligible for IGC badges, diplomas and records.

5.1 **On-Line Competitions (OLCs).** An OLC is a "de-centralized competition" in which participants use email to file IGC flight data under the rules of the particular OLC organiser. OLCs are not official IGC competitions and their rules may, or may not, conform to IGC criteria such as the Sporting Code for Gliding (SC3) and its Annexes. In an OLC, pilots fly different tasks from different sites, unlike a Centralized Competition flown at one site with a common task on each day.

6. **Grandfather Rights and IGC-approval Levels.** The term "Grandfather Rights" describes a system similar to that used in the Regulation of Commercial Air Transport where already-approved clearances are continued after rules and procedures are changed, so that aircraft and equipment in Service does not have to be constantly modified or even grounded while modifications take place. In the case of IGC FRs, approval levels are continued even though the Technical Specification is changed, until the characteristics of old FR designs become significantly below current standards for the approval level concerned. Specification requirements are increased over time, and eventually the approval levels of old types of FR will have to be lowered, see 6.1 below.

6.1 **Lowering Approval Levels over time.** Where the technical standard of a particular type of FR falls well below the current Specification, particularly on security aspects such as low resistance to hacking, the IGC-approval level of that type of FR will be lowered in accordance with procedures given in Appendix A to SC3B. This may apply to individual types of FR, but during 2012 and in 2019-20, groups of older types of FR had their IGC-approval levels reduced due to increases in IGC security requirements. In some cases, approvals were withdrawn, see note 1 above. More detail is in the table that starts on page 5 and lists Approval documents starting with the first ones that were published in 1996.

-----

## IGC-APPROVED FLIGHT RECORDERS – 21 MANUFACTURERS

s/n	Name of Manufacturer (alphabetical order)	Country	Manufacturer's web page	IGC Codes for the Firmware Manufacturer used in IGC files	
				3 letters	1 letter (used in short version of IGC file name)
1	Aircotec Flight Instruments *	Austria	<a href="http://www.aircotec.com">www.aircotec.com</a>	ACT	I
2	Cambridge Aero Instruments *	USA	via Gary Kammerer <a href="mailto:gary@clearnav.net">gary@clearnav.net</a>	CAM	C
2	ClearNav Instruments	USA	<a href="http://www.clearnav.net">www.clearnav.net</a>	CNI	K
4	DSX Data Swan *	Switzerland	no current web site	DSX	D
5	EDIATec (Flarm Firmware)	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.ediatec.ch">www.ediatec.ch</a>	FLA	G
6	EW Avionics *	UK	no current web site	EWA	E
	Filser *	Germany	pre-2008 FRs under the Filser name are covered under LX Navigation which manufactured these FRs for Filser (in 2008 Filser changed to Funkwerk)	FIL	F
7	Flarm Technology GmbH	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.flarm.com">www.flarm.com</a>	FLA	G
8	Garrecht Avionik GmbH *	Germany	<a href="http://www.garrecht.com">www.garrecht.com</a> & <a href="http://www.air-avionics.com">www.air-avionics.com</a>	GCS	A
9	IMI Gliding Equipment	Czech Republic	<a href="http://www.imi-gliding.com">www.imi-gliding.com</a>	IMI	M
10	Logstream SP z.o.o.	Poland	<a href="http://www.logstream.eu">www.logstream.eu</a>	LGS	Only 3-letter code used
11	LXNAV d.o.o.	Slovenia	<a href="http://www.lxnav.com">www.lxnav.com</a>	LXV	V
12	LX Navigation	Slovenia	<a href="http://www.lxnavigation.com">www.lxnavigation.com</a>	LXN	L
13	Naviter d.o.o.	Slovenia	<a href="http://www.naviter.com">www.naviter.com</a>	NAV	Only 3-letter code used
14	Nielsen-Kellerman *	USA	No current FR web site. The original NKL FR re-named ClearNav Version 1	NKL	K
15	New Technologies s.r.l. *	Italy	<a href="http://www.ntsrl.it">www.ntsrl.it</a> & <a href="http://glider.mooo.com">http://glider.mooo.com</a>	NTE	N
16	PressFinish Electronics	Germany	<a href="http://www.pressfinish.de">www.pressfinish.de</a>	PFE	Only 3-letter code used
17	RC Electronics	Slovenia	<a href="http://www.rc-electronics.eu">www.rc-electronics.eu</a>	RCE	Only 3-letter code used
18	Scheffel Automation *	Germany	<a href="http://www.themi.de">www.themi.de</a>	SCH	H
19	Streamline Digital Instruments	Germany	<a href="http://www.sdi-variometer.de">www.sdi-variometer.de</a>	SDI	S
20	Triadis Engineering GmbH	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.triadis.ch">www.triadis.ch</a>	TRI	T
21	Zander Segelflugrechner *	Germany	<a href="http://www.zander-variometer.de">www.zander-variometer.de</a>	ZAN	Z

Notes:

- Manufacturers marked with an asterisk ( \* ) are understood to be no longer manufacturing IGC FRs. Some continue to maintain web sites, others do not, and some can no longer be contacted.
- In previous years other companies such as Peschges and Print Technik manufactured GNSS Flight Recorders that were IGC-approved at the time, but due to increases in requirements these early FRs are no longer approved, mainly for reasons associated with security of the FR and its IGC-format files. Note 1 to the table of FR types on page 3 gives references to documents on some types of FR that are no longer IGC-approved.
- A chronological record follows in Part 2 which gives dates and other details about IGC-approval activities, in reverse date order with most recent activities first.

-----

## PART 2 - DATES OF IGC-APPROVAL DOCUMENTS

*The following IGC-approval documents and updates have been issued on behalf of IGC by the IGC GNSS Flight Recorder Approval Committee (GFAC). The list is in reverse date order, the most recent approvals and updates coming first. To preserve a complete record of Approval activity, the list goes back to the first IGC-approval in January 1996*

- 12 July 2022 - Oudie-N-IGC FR from Naviter, initial approval  
14 May 2022 - FenixN FR from RC Electronics, added to the original Fenix approval document  
6 February 2022 - Correction to Approval Level of Zander 941 - was listed as Level 2, this should have been Level 3, see below for January 2020.
- 20 April 2021 - Fenix FR from RC Electronics, initial approval  
24 March 2021 - (1) Updated LXNAV LX8000 document, adding the LX8030 and LX8040 variants with larger screens. (2) The Filser name added to 4 FR Types under LX Navigation which produced these FRs for Filser. (3) Lines for Filser and Nielsen Kellerman added to table of FR Manufacturers. (4) Approvals for LX Navigation LX20/21, DX50, and LX5000 updated with Filser references.
- 22 October 2020 - update of PowerFLARM approval, adding the Fusion variant  
30 June 2020 - Aircotec IGC-approval document - company status changed to "no longer active"  
20 & 24 May 2020 - IGC-approval documents for all FRs updated with GFAC Chairman's new email address, and references to FAI/IGC and GFAC web sites updated  
1 February 2020 - updates of wording for many IGC-approval documents to standardise references, addresses, and other wording, and to enable all IGC-approval updates to be in 2020: ClearNav 2 & IGC, DSX SaFly, Ediatec ECW100, Flarm-IGC and Flarm PowerFlarm, Logstream FR1, LXNAV FlarmMouse, LXNAV Nano series, LX 8000 series, LX9000 series, LXNAV Flarm PowerMouse, LXNAV S-10 & S-100, LX Navigation Colibri series, LX Navigation DX50, LX Navigation LX20/21, LX Navigation 5000, LX Navigation 7000 series, LX Navigation Flarm Eagle, LX Navigation Eos/Era/LX1000, LX Navigation MOP IGC, LX Navigation Mini Box & Red Box Flarm, Naviter Oudie, PressFinish GCA-IGC, SDI PosiGraph series, Triadis RU1-3  
1 January 2020 - Reductions of IGC-approvals due to use of old systems and low security: Aircotec, Cambridge 302, ClearNav-IGC V1.0, DSX T-advisor/Tracer, EW Micro, Garrecht Volkslogger, IMI Erinx, NT Easy & Matchbox, Scheffel Themi, Zander 941.  
Withdrawal of IGC-approval due to old systems and vulnerability to hacking: Peschges VP8
- 20 October 2019 - update of IGC-approvals for Aircotec, Cambridge 302, DSX T-advisor/Tracer, EW Micro, Garrecht Volkslogger, IMI Erinx, NT Easy & Matchbox, Peschges VP8, Scheffel Themi, Zander 941. All notifying reduction in IGC-approval levels to take place 1 January 2020
- 15 November 2018 - LX Navigation - addition of Flarm Eagle and Flarm Eagle Mobile  
10 November 2018 - LX Navigation - addition of LX 10000, a variant of the LXN Era 80  
6 November 2018 - LX Navigation Red Box Flarm - update to references to IGC file header record  
31 August 2018 - LX Navigation Colibri X, initial approval  
15 April 2018 - LX Navigation - adding Eos 80 and Era 57 and Era 80 models to original Eos approval  
14 February 2018 - LXNAV PowerMouse-IGC with Flarm firmware, initial approval
- 4 November 2017 - ClearNav FRs (3), update with new Company address  
12 February 2017 - LXNAV Nano 4, initial approval
- 16 November 2016 - LX Navigation LX MOP IGC recorder, initial approval  
3 August 2016 - LXNAV LX9000HAFR, initial approval. HAFR=High Altitude Flight Recorder, for altitude claims above 15,000 metres  
25 April 2016 - LXNAV S-10 and S-100, initial approval
- 10 December 2015 - LX Navigation Eos, addition of external MOP sensor box for rear-mounted jet and electric engines  
22 November 2015 - Logstream FR-1, initial approval  
5 October 2015 - LXNAV LX8000 and 9000 series, addition of electric current sensor for gliders with rear-mounted electric engines  
10 April 2015 - PressFinish GCA-IGC, initial approval  
10 March 2015 - ClearNav Instruments, ClearNav II, initial approval
- 26 November 2014 - LX Navigation LX Eos, initial approval  
30 June 2014 - LXNAV 9050 and 9050F, initial approval  
30 April 2014 - LXNAV Nano 3, initial approval  
10 April 2014 - ClearNav CNv-IGC, initial approval  
20 March 2014 - Naviter Oudie-IGC, initial approval. Also introduction of shorter format in main document.  
31 January 2014 - LX Navigation Mini Box Flarm, addition of battery-powered portable version
- 10 October 2013 - LXNAV LX9000 series, addition of LX9070  
1 October 2013 - Changes of Approval level for the LX Navigation DX50, LX20, LX21, LX5000; SDI Posigraph; Zander 940  
31 August 2013 - Notice of IGC-approval level changes to take place on 1 October 2013  
31 July 2013 - LXNAV FlarmMouse with Flarm-IGC firmware, initial approval.  
5 May 2013 - Triadis Recorder Unit 2, initial approval.  
5 May 2013 - Also update to LXNAV FRs with the external MOP box for rear-mounted jet and electric engines  
31 March 2013 - Triadis Recorder Unit 3 (RU3), initial approval  
28 February 2013 - Flarm, Flight Recorder aspects of powerFlarm-IGC, initial approval  
14 February 2013 - Update to FLARM-IGC recorder and others using it as the main FR module.  
~These are the Ediatec ECW100F, and the LX Navigation Mini-Box Flarm and Red Box Flarm
- 5 October 2012 - LX Navigation Colibri approval updated with Hardware and Firmware versions for Models 1 & 4.  
1 October 2012 - Changes as a result of the 2011 ANDS/GFAC Security paper, approved by the Bureau & 2012 IGC Plenary:  
Reductions in IGC-approval levels: Cambridge 10, 20, 25, Filser/LXN DX50, Filser/LXN LX20 (with RSA192), Filser/LXN LX21, Filser/LXN LX5000 IGC, LXN Colibri 1, SDI/LXN Posigraph, Zander GP940.  
Withdrawal of IGC-approval due to low security: EW FR A-D with separate GPS receiver (no viable security), Filser/LXN LX20 batch 1 without RSA (also hacked), Print Technik GR 1000/1000A (keys revealed).
- 10 August 2012 - Notice of the changes to take place on 1 October 2012 (see above)  
29 May 2012 - Security update to EDIATEC ECW100F, LX Navigation Mini Box and Red Box Flarm  
15 May 2012 - Flarm-IGC security warning  
31 January 2012 - LXNAV LX8000 and 8000F, addition of MOP box for jet-engined motor gliders  
22 January 2012 - LX Navigation LX7007FC, initial approval  
10 January 2012 - LXNAV LX9000, addition of MOP box for jet-engined motor gliders
- 20 November 2011 - LX Navigation Colibri II, initial approval  
31 October 2011 - LXNAV LX8080F, addition of MOP box for jet-engined motor gliders  
31 August 2011 - DSX SaFly, initial approval issued  
20 April 2011 - ClearNav-IGC, name change from Nielsen Kellerman  
14 March 2011 - LXNAV LX8080F, initial approval issued
- 31 August 2010 - LXNAV Nano, initial approval issued  
30 June 2010 - LX Navigation Mini Box Flarm and Red Box Flarm, addition of ENL system  
14 June 2010 - LXNAV LX9000, initial approval issued  
25 April 2010 - EWA Models A-D approval. EW series stand-alone GPS receiver list now in Annex C to the main IGC-approval.  
28 February 2010 - Zander GP940 approval changed to include airborne engine run as well as a ground run.
- 25 May 2009 - Nielsen Kellerman ClearNav-IGC, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
14 February 2009 - Triadis Altair V1.0, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued

20 November 2008 – EW microRecorder – update to allow for low ENL readings in quiet flight  
31 August 2008 – LXN Mini Box Flarm-IGC, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued, to "Diamonds" level.  
31 August 2008 – LXN Red Box Flarm-IGC, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued, to "Diamonds" level.  
14 June 2008 – EDIA Tec ECW100F, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued, to "Diamonds" level.  
7 June 2008 – IMI Erix V1.0, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
25 April 2008 – LXN LX8000 and LX8000F, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
12 April 2008 – DSX 7100 T-Advisor series and DSX 8000 Tracer series, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
10 March 2008 – Flarm-IGC V1.0, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued, to "Diamonds" level.  
20 February 2008 – LXN (ex Filser) DX50, LX20, LX21, LX5000IGC update and change of name from Filser to LXN  
20 January 2008 – Garrecht Volkslogger, update of wording

30 April 2007 – Cambridge 10, 20 & 25 updated  
12 April 2007 – Cambridge 302 series updated  
31 March 2007 – LXN Colibri 4F with Flarm, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
10 January 2007 – NT Easy, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued

20 November 2006 – EW microRecorder, addition of EW engine noise recording system  
20 August 2006 – Zander/SDI GP941, amendment with Firmware 2.11 on time recording  
10 June 2006 - EW microRecorder, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
30 May 2006 - Aircotec XC Profi (Gliders), Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
17 March 2006 - LXN 7007F with uBLOX board and internal FLARM module  
24 February 2006 - LXN Colibri model 4 with uBLOX GPS receiver board

8 August 2005 - New Technologies (NTE) Easy Matchbox, Version 1 of IGC-approval document  
20 July 2005 - LX Navigation LX7000 series, Version 2 with addition of LX7007  
20 June 2005 - LX Navigation Colibri, addition of Colibri Version 4.  
10 April 2005 - EW Models A-D, update of manufacturer details  
10 April 2005 - Cambridge 10, 20 & 25, update of manufacturer details and notice of change of IGC-approval level.

1 October 2004 - PrintTechnik GR1000 and GR1000A Issue 3  
1 October 2004 - Filser LX20 Issue 5  
1 October 2004 - Peschges VP8 Edition 2A  
20 September 2004 - Zander 940 Issue 2  
12 September 2004 - Cambridge 10, 20 & 25, Issue 5  
28 March 2004 - Cambridge 10, 20 & 25, Issue 4A  
28 March 2004 - Filser LX20 Issue 5A  
28 March 2004 - Peschges VP8 Edition 2  
28 March 2004 - Print Technik GR1000 Issue 2  
1 February 2004 - LX Navigation LX20, "all badges" level for early standard without micro & RSA  
1 January 2004 - Cambridge (Martinsville) company out of business, Cambridge 10/20/25 and 302 FR approval wording changed

25 November 2003 - Cambridge (Horn Lake) 10/20/25 and 302 series with Horn Lake address  
25 November 2003 - Cambridge (Martinsville) 10/20/25 and 302 series with new manufacturer codes  
25 August 2003 - Cambridge (Martinsville) 302 series, addition of simpler 302A model.  
20 May 2003 - Cambridge (Martinsville) 10, 20 and 25, update to approval document  
5 May 2003 - Scheffel Themi increased from Diamonds to "all badges" level  
14 March 2003 - LX Navigation LX7000, new type of FR, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
14 February 2003 - SDI Posigraph, introduction of Model 2  
12 February 2003 - Zander/SDI GP941, introduction of A model with GPS15 board.  
13 January 2003 - Cambridge (Martinsville) 302 series, introduction of ENL system

31 October 2002 - Scheffel Themi, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued, to "Diamonds" level.  
20 October 2002 - LX5000IGC, addition of 2002 model LX5000IGC-2 with higher resolution screen and extra button.

10 December 2001, updated approval documents issued for the following 5 types: Filser DX50 & LX20, Filser LX5000IGC, LX Navigation Colibri, SDI PosiGraph  
30 October 2001 - Cambridge 302, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
30 October 2001 - Zander/SDI GP941, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
25 May 2001 - Specification amendment 4 adds the IGC Shell Program and FR Manufacturers DLL files, designed by GFAC member Marc Ramsey

15 May 2000 - Filser LX5000IGC series, addition of LX5000IGC-2 and update of earlier approvals.  
21 Mar 2000 - Filser LX20, Version 3 including LX20-2000 and updated wording  
10 Mar 2000 - Amendment 3 to EWFR approval to add 2 new Garmin GPS units

19 Nov 99 - Amendment 2 to EWFR approval to add 5 new Garmin GPS units.  
21 Jun 99 - Cambridge Issue 3 Including Pilot Event (PEV) Function and the Palm-Nav Display.  
10 May 99 - Garrecht Volkslogger Model V11.0, Issue 2 including Motor Glider ENL Function  
8 Mar 99 - Streamline Digital Instruments (SDI, Germany) PosiGraph Model 1.0, Version 1 of IGC-approval  
29 Jan 99 - Amendment 1 to EWFR approval to add new Model D with improved memory.

16 Nov 98 - Filser DX50, Amendment 1 to allow for three tube static pressure system.  
26 Oct 98 - LX Navigation Colibri 1.0, Issue 2 with ENL recording  
31 Aug 98 - LX Navigation Colibri 1.0 Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
24 Aug 98 - Issue 2 of EWFR approval to add model C, add additional Garmin GPS units, update the wording.  
30 Jun 98 - Filser LX5000IGC, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
19 May 98 - Filser DX50, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
24 Apr 98 - Filser LX21, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
3 Apr 98 - Garrecht Volkslogger VL1.0, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued

20 Jul 97 - Cambridge 10, 20, 25; Version 2 Approval, adding a 12 channel RX, variable time fixing, updated wording.  
13 May 97 - Amendment to EWFR A/B approval to add Garmin 12XL to list of approved stand-alone GPS units.  
19 Apr 97 - EW "EWFR A & B" for badges up to and including Diamonds, when connected by cable to one of a list of approved GPS units  
25 Mar 97 - Filser LX20 Version 2 Approval, with the addition of motor glider engine recording  
20 Mar 97 - Print Technik GR1000, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued

10 Nov 96 - Zander GP940, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
12 Aug 96 - Filser LX20, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
31 May 96 - Peschges VP8, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued  
16 Jan 96 - Cambridge Models 10, 20 and 25, Version 1 of IGC-approval document issued

-----

## PART 3 - HISTORY OF GNSS AND ITS USE IN IGC

### Contents

<i>Definitions and descriptions - GNSS, General Principles of operation. GPS/NAVSTAR, Beidou 2, Galileo, GLONASS</i>	
1987-1991	<i>Early IGC Discussions on future use of GPS recording</i>
1991	<i>Paper on GPS recording presented to OSTIV conference by Dr Dave Ellis of Cambridge Instruments</i>
1992	<i>First commercial GPS Flight Recorder, the RD Logger</i>
1993	<i>Electronic Barographs with GPS input produced by Borgelt and EW</i>
1993	<i>World Gliding Championships in Borlange, Sweden, included some GPS Recorder testing</i>
1993-94	<i>Development of the IGC flight data standard, co-ordinated by Bob Fletcher (USA) and Hans Trautenberg (Europe)</i>
1994	<i>GPS FR by Cambridge accepted for next World Championships in New Zealand.</i>
1995	<i>January - New Zealand World Gliding Championships at Omarama use Cambridge GNSS Recorders for primary evidence</i>
1995	<i>March - IGC GFA Committee (GFAC) formed</i>
1995-96	<i>Testing and issue of first IGC-approvals for general use of GNSS FRs</i>
1996 - now	<i>Annual Reports on GNSS Recording</i>
2011	<i>Reduction in IGC-approval levels of 9 older types of FR, 3 removals of Approvals</i>
2012	<i>GFAC receives FAI Group Diploma</i>
2019-20	<i>Reduction in IGC-approval levels of 10 older types of FR, 1 removal of Approval</i>

GNSS = Global Navigation Satellite System, the generic term for the specific systems described below.

Principle of operation – US GPS. This para describes the US NAVSTAR/Global Positioning System (GPS). Other satellite navigation systems use similar principles, although details such as frequencies and orbits differ. A GPS receiver on the ground records very small time-differences between transmissions at about 1500 MHz from the array of GPS satellites that are in view above the horizon at any one time, and uses these time differences to calculate a position. GPS satellites are in an orbit 55 degrees oblique to the equator at an altitude of about 20,200 km. Between 24 and 27 satellites are on-line at any one time with some in-orbit reserves. Each satellite has an atomic clock accurate to better than a nanosecond and its accuracy is monitored from the ground and updated as necessary. Due to earth shielding, a maximum of up to 12 transmitting satellites can be in view to a receiver at any one time. The exact number of satellites-in-view depends on where the receiver is placed on or near the earth's surface. Terrain shielding reduces the number of satellites in view, as do receivers at latitudes over the 55 degree GPS satellite orbit. Because a GPS receiver is constantly updated with data on the satellite orbits, it knows the exact position in space from which a satellite transmits a signal. When the signal is received, the time-difference from when it was transmitted is a measure of the distance between the satellite and the receiver. The time-differences from several satellites provide lines-of-position which are used by the receiver's computer to calculate the Most Probable Position (MPP). In receivers with 12 or more channels operating on the ground in mid-latitudes without ground shielding, between 6 and 10 satellite position lines are typical for an individual fix. With sensitive receivers, good antenna layouts and a clear horizon, 12 satellites have been observed to be locked on as far north as 51 degrees. A brief description of some GNSS systems follows, followed by a history of GNSS recording in IGC.

GPS/NAVSTAR. In 1973, the US Department of Defense (DoD) decided to develop the NAVigation System for Timing And Ranging (NAVSTAR), commonly referred to as the Global Positioning System (GPS). From 1978, Block 1 GPS satellites were launched and the system first came on-line in January 1980. It was initially for military use with receivers that had special codes to access the data. Later, civil GPS receivers were produced for general use but these were subject to a deliberate reduction in accuracy by the Military GPS controlling authority. The authority was originally the US Department of Defense (DoD) and later the US Department of Transportation (DoT) was added. The accuracy reduction was so that the military receivers would always have more accurate data and also that civilian receivers were less likely to be used for undesirable purposes such as disruption or terrorism. The accuracy-reduction system was called "Selective Availability" (SA) and used a random short-term variation (wobble) of the timebase. Average error in lat/long for civilian receivers in these early days was measured by GFAC at about 50 metres for single fixes, reducing to about 40 metres as improved 12-channel receivers came on the market. Errors were recorded from a moving vehicle using several accurately-surveyed points on the ground at about 51N 001W and the overall average with SA was 44 m. When the SA system was withdrawn on 1 May 2000, GFAC accuracy results improved substantially, showing an average error at the end of 2000 of about 13m. Since then, average errors have improved to between 6 and 8m in good reception conditions. This is due to improved processing in receiver boards, and the increased number of GPS satellites. The GPS system is continuously updated as new satellites are put in orbit and old ones taken off-line.

Accuracy enhancement systems. Enhancements to basic system accuracy are provided by regional Satellite-Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS). These increase accuracy by monitoring errors at ground stations in the area concerned and making corrections available to compatible receivers. Such systems in service include WAAS (North America), EGNOS (Europe), BeiDou 1 (China), GAGAN (India) and MSAS (Japan). A Ground-Based Augmentation System (GBAS) has been developed in Australia.

BeiDou 3 (original name "Compass"). This is the GNS System of the Peoples Republic of China. The third phase of the BeiDou system (BDS-3) includes three GEO satellites, three IGSO satellites, and twenty-four MEO satellites with new signal frequencies. See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beidou\\_navigation\\_system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beidou_navigation_system)

Galileo. The European Galileo project was launched in May 2002 under EU Council Regulation EC 876/2002, with the object of having 30 satellites at an altitude of about 22,200 km at an orbital plane of 56 degrees. Galileo is under civil control and is to be interoperable with the Russian GLONASS and US GPS systems. An Initial Operational Capability (IOC) was achieved in 2009 with 26 satellites. So-called new generation satellites are to be available by 2025.

See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galileo\\_\(satellite\\_navigation\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galileo_(satellite_navigation))  
and: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/satnav/galileo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/satnav/galileo/index_en.htm)

GLONASS. The Russian GNSS system, the initials standing for GLOBal'naya NAvigatsionnaya Sputnikovaya Sistema (GLOBAL Navigation Satellite System). The first satellite was launched in October 1982 and a full Constellation completed in 1995. Since then, agreements have been made that bring the technical standards of the US GPS system and GLONASS to a similar level so that receivers can more easily process both systems. In 2021, 27 satellites were in orbit of which 24 are operational at any one time. See [www.glonass-ianc.rsa.ru](http://www.glonass-ianc.rsa.ru) and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GLONASS>

## USE OF GPS FLIGHT RECORDERS IN GLIDING

1987-1992 - Early Discussions and Development. In 1987, discussions were held by the IGC Championships sub-committee on the potential use of GPS Flight Recorders (FRs) for after-flight display of positions and validation of flight data.

In 1991, Dr David Ellis of Cambridge Aero Instruments of Vermont, USA, presented a paper on GPS recording to the OSTIV Conference in Uvalde, USA, the site of the World Gliding Championships (WGC). This paper was based on flight recordings made in April 1991 using equipment loaned to Cambridge by a development engineer at Trimble Navigation. Flights were made from Palo Alto airport in California in a Cessna 172 light aircraft, and demonstrated the feasibility of GPS recording by a portable unit. Bernald Smith (USA), a Vice-President of IGC, heard Ellis' presentation and became an advocate of GPS recording. Bernald was responsible for photo evaluation at Uvalde and in a presentation described the work of his 15-person team, adding that if GPS recording succeeded, such a large team would not be required.

Also at Uvalde in 1991 were Alf Ingesson-Thoor, Director of the future World Championships in 1993 at Borlange, Sweden, and John Roake, Director of the WGC to be held at Omarama, New Zealand, in 1995. Alf and John had meetings with Dave Ellis with a view to using GPS recording in future WGC. For the 1996 Championships in New Zealand, Bernald Smith and John Roake were particularly concerned with the problems of using photos to check reaching Turn Points at the high altitudes that could be achieved in wave soaring.

Cambridge Aero Instruments then produced a recording system using a Garmin GPS-10 engine and a HP-95 pocket calculator. This was flown by John Good (USA) in a gliding competition at Matamata, New Zealand, in February 1992.

1992 - first commercial GPS recorder for gliding. A GPS recorder was developed by avionics supplier RD Aviation of Oxford, UK. This was to a specification by its Managing Director Dickie Feakes, a glider pilot since the mid 1950s. The recorder was connected by cable to a separate GPS receiver such as one of the Garmin range and was a memory module with no pressure altitude sensor or built-in security. The format of its data output was an ASCII file with the suffix "dat", short for data. The software compiler of this so-called "dot.dat" format was Vince May, the founder and owner of the UK company Skyforce, with inputs from Phil Jeffrey of the BGA Competitions Committee. The DAT format was later developed into the IGC flight data format that is used today. In 1992 the FR was sold by RD Aviation as the "RD Logger" and in 1993 by Skyforce as the "Skyforce Logger".

1993 - Electronic Barographs with GPS input. Two companies that had been producing electronic barographs, in 1993 developed versions with larger memory that could be connected to a Garmin GPS receiver to record GPS fixes as well as pressure altitude. These were EW Avionics (UK, managed by Wayne Richards) and Borgelt Instruments (Australia, managed by Mike Borgelt).

1993 - World Gliding Championships - Borlange. Trials supervised by Bernald Smith (USA) were made in June 1993 during the World Championships in Borlange, Sweden, using prototype Flight Recorders from Dr Ellis' Cambridge Aero Instruments company in Vermont, USA.

1993 - Preparation for the next World Championships in New Zealand. Soaring in New Zealand includes high-level wave flying, and it is difficult for ground observers to validate gliders that only need to fly a short distance beyond Turn Points when the glider is at high altitude. After the Borlange trials in June 1993 mentioned above, John Roake, Director of the future 1995 World Championships in New Zealand, sent a GPS recorder specification to several potential manufacturers. As a result, Cambridge made a bid for units to be used in the 1995 World Championships with a rental price of US\$200 per Flight Recorder (FR).

1994 - GPS FRs for New Zealand World Championships. IGC approved the use of the Cambridge design of FR as the primary system for scoring the 1995 World Championships. Pre-production Cambridge Model 10 FRs were made available, for which the software writer was John Good. 15 were tested in the 1994 New Zealand Nationals and 30 in the later pre-world competition ("KiwiGlide"). This IGC decision for the first time gave priority to GPS recording over photographic evidence. The Cambridge design included pressure altitude recording, physical and electronic security, and the GPS receiver and other functions were in one sealed case. This was different to the earlier Borgelt, EW and RD/Skyforce designs that were connected by cable to a separate GPS receiver such as by Garmin. IGC was particularly sensitive to security issues after a case of cheating on photographic evidence at Borlange had resulted in a pilot being sent home. The Cambridge system used a microswitch to show whether the case had been opened and an electronic checksum system to show that the output file was exactly the same as when originally downloaded. These were stand-alone units with a large internal battery so that no changes to glider avionics or wiring would be required and the required data would be recorded as long as the GPS antenna was in a good position.

1993-94 - Development of the IGC flight data standard. Meanwhile, the IGC ASCII file format was developed during 1993 and 1994 from the original 1992 BGA "dot.dat" format by a group of experts led by Bob Fletcher in the USA (who was then General Manager of Cambridge Aero Instruments) and Hans Trautenberg in Europe. The initial version of the format was finalised in October 1994 for use in the New Zealand world championships in early 1995.

1995 - January - New Zealand World Gliding Championships. In January 1995 the World Gliding Championships were held at Omarama in New Zealand with John Roake as Director. Cambridge supplied all competitors with early versions of what would later become their model 10 FR. This was the first time GPS recording had been used for scoring in a World Championship, and particularly suited the high level wave flying environment in New Zealand for which ground observers are not suitable for reliable Turn Point validation. During the Championship, the Chairman of the IGC GPS Committee, Bernald Smith, independently checked the GPS FR results on behalf of IGC with a view to their wider use.

1995 - January-March - Development of IGC procedures on GNSS recording. IGC officials at the New Zealand championships assessed the GPS recording as a success, and asked for a definitive set of rules for more general use of GPS FRs in world gliding. The 1995 IGC Plenary was only 6 weeks away on 17 and 18 March 1995 in Paris, so this was a difficult task. The option of delaying until the 1996 Plenary was not practical because the new technology had already been shown to work. Sporting Code editor Ian Strachan was asked by Tor Johannessen in an urgent message from Omarama to draft suitable rules, circulate them to experts in IGC and FAI, and co-ordinate updates in time to make a proposal to the IGC Plenary in Paris in March. Fortunately Strachan had some GPS knowledge, having previously tested some GPS FRs and had written an article on GPS recording in the UK magazine "Sailplane and Gliding". Intensive work followed including circulation of several drafts of proposed IGC rules and procedures. Bernald Smith, then Chairman of the IGC GNSS Committee, also took part in the drafting process and produced what became Chapter 1 of the new document. A meeting was held



on 15 March 1995 at FAI HQ in Paris and included Bernald Smith, Ian Strachan, FAI staff, and several potential FR manufacturers. The final draft for the IGC Plenary agenda was in the form of a new Annex B to the Sporting Code for Gliding. This was approved by the Plenary on 18 March, to be refined and published later in the year together with other Sporting Code updates.

1995 - March - start of the IGC GFA Committee. The IGC GPS Flight Recorder Approval Committee (GFAC) was created at the 1995 IGC Plenary meeting in Paris. The first members were Angel Casado (Spain), Arnie Hartley (Australia), Ian Strachan (UK), Kilian Grefen (Germany) and Mike Strang (USA). Shortly after, Ian Strachan was elected by the others as Chairman. The new committee finalised the wording of the new Annex B to the Sporting Code and the document was published on 1 October 1995, the same date as other Sporting Code updates. The IGC Plenary also gave GFAC the authority to test and evaluate GNSS Flight Recorders on behalf of IGC and to issue documents giving IGC-approval for the use of individual types of FRs for validating flights to IGC standards. On the IGC file format, the original IGC file suffix used at Omarama had been "GPS" but this was considered by GFAC to be too general and the suffix was changed to "IGC" later in 1995.

1995 - December - FR Testing. At the end of 1995 the first types of FR were submitted to GFAC for testing. These were the Cambridge Models 10, 20 and 25. The Model 10 was the commercial version of the FRs used in the Omarama World Championships. Models 20 and 25 were developed during 1995 and were smaller units for connecting to the glider electrical system rather than having the large internal battery of the Model 10. As well as built-in electronic and physical security, these could all store pre-flight declarations and a turn point list. In addition, a separate screen could be connected by cable to display position, distance to selected points, etc.

1996 – First IGC-approvals. GFAC published IGC-approval documents for the Cambridge 10, 20 and 25 in January 1996. Other testing and approvals in 1996 were, in order of approval dates, the Peschges VP8, Filser LX20 and Zander GP940. For this and later GFAC activity, see the table in Part 2 earlier in this document.

Motor Glider Engine Recording. During 1995, Cambridge developed the Environmental Noise Level (ENL) system in which a microphone inside the FR detects acoustic noise, and ENL numbers between 000 and 999 are added to each fix in the IGC file. This was so that the use of engine in motor gliders could be recorded without needing wires outside the FR case. This system was fitted to three types of Cambridge FRs that were approved in January 1996. Other FR manufacturer's systems for recording use of engine used wires connected to microswitches on the engine doors or pylon, or a sensor to record vibrations at the FR. However, there were problems with wire- and vibration-based systems and an ENL system inside the FR soon became the IGC standard. Later, to allow for quiet electric engines, and jet engines that produce high frequency noise, an additional external MOP (Means-of-Propulsion) sensor that could be placed close to the engine, was added to the FR Technical Specification in addition to the ENL system inside the FR.

1997 - Technical Specification. After GFAC had gained experience of early types of FRs, in October 1997 the first edition of a Technical Specification for IGC-approved GNSS FRs was issued, so that future FRs, their security, and the structure of their IGC files would be to a similar standard. A second edition was issued in 2010, to which regular updates are made today.

1996 to the Present Day - Reports. The GFAC Chairman submits a written report that is published in the IGC Plenary agenda, normally in early January each year. This is followed later in the year by a presentation to the Plenary meeting, followed by votes on issues that need confirmation by the Plenary. These reports, when combined with IGC-approval documents listed in Part 2 above, give a detailed account of the work carried out by GFAC on behalf of IGC.

Other FAI Air Sports. After the initial IGC system was seen to be working well and had been publicised at FAI Conferences, several other FAI Air Sports started to use the IGC FR system for their competitions and records.

2005 - Lilienthal Medal. This world gliding award was made to GFAC Chairman Ian Strachan for his work on GPS Flight Recorders. In 1993, Bernald Smith had also been awarded the Lilienthal.

2011 - ANDS/GFAC Security paper. This paper was approved by the Bureau and later by the 2012 IGC Plenary. This resulted in reductions in IGC-approval levels of 9 older types of FR from four manufacturers. At this time, IGC-approval was withdrawn from three types of FR from three manufacturers due to security issues including hacking and revelation of security keys in the Public Domain.

2012 - FAI Diploma. The IGC GFA Committee was awarded an FAI Group Diploma for their work on behalf of Sport Aviation.

2019-20. IGC-approval levels of 11 older types of FR were reduced, including withdrawal of Approval for a type of FR first Approved in 1996. Like a similar action taken in 2011, this was because these old FR designs were well below current IGC FR Specification requirements and were more vulnerable to hacking and malpractice.

Current IGC-approved FR Numbers, Names, Characteristics. Listed in the table at the beginning of this document.

-----