



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 24004

DATE: 06/25/24

Flight Standards Service  
Washington, DC

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*A SAFO contains important safety information and may include recommended action. Besides the specific action recommended in a SAFO, an alternative action may be as effective in addressing the safety issue named in the SAFO. The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.*

**Subject:** Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) Transmitter Anomalies.

**Purpose:** This SAFO warns owners and operators of aircraft equipped with uAvionix tailBeacon or skyBeacon ADS-B transmitters paired with Mode S transponders of possible erroneous transmissions.

**Background:** Aircraft equipped with uAvionix tailBeacon or skyBeacon ADS-B 978 MHZ Universal Access Transmitters (UAT) that are improperly paired with Mode S transponders have been found to emit erroneous and unreliable ADS-B performance parameters. The performance parameters are defined in Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 91 § 91.227.

**Discussion:** Aircraft owners, operators, and installers should be aware of impacts to their specific aircraft systems identified by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM). uAvionix has identified in both the tailBeacon<sup>1</sup> and skyBeacon<sup>2</sup> supplemental type certificate (STC) installation manuals the following:

“A companion Mode A/C (**not Mode S**) altitude-reporting transponder is required to be installed for 14 CFR 91.225 and 91.227 compliance, unless installed on an aircraft excepted from the requirements of 14 CFR 91.215 and 91.225. The transponder’s altitude source must comply with TSO-C10(), TSO-C106() or TSO-C88() and meet the requirements of 14 CFR 91.217.”

**Recommended Action:** Aircraft owners and operators of aircraft not excepted from the requirements of §§ 91.215 and 91.225 and equipped with uAvionix tailBeacon or skyBeacon ADS-B transmitters should ensure proper pairing with Mode A/C transponders to ensure compliance with Part 43 § 43.13 (a) and §§ 91.215, 91.217, 91.225, and 91.227.

**Contact:** Direct questions or comments regarding the content of this SAFO to Aircraft Maintenance Division, ADS-B Focus Team at [adsbfocusteam@faa.gov](mailto:adsbfocusteam@faa.gov).

<sup>1</sup> [tailBeacon-STC-Installation-Manual-UAV-1002514-001-Rev-C.pdf \(uavionix.com\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [skyBeacon-STC-Installation-Manual-UAV-1002305-001 Rev-H.pdf \(uavionix.com\)](#)