

RTCA  
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**Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Emergency Locator  
Transmitters**

**Automated Fixed – ELT (AF)  
Automatic Portable – ELT (AP)  
Automatic Deployable – ELT (AD)  
Survival – ELT (S)**

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## F O R E W O R D

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

### 1.1 Introduction

This document sets forth minimum operational performance standards for Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs). Incorporated within these standards are system characteristics that will be beneficial to users, designers, manufacturers and installers.

Section 1.0 of this document provides information needed to understand the rationale for equipment characteristics and requirements stated in the remaining sections. It describes typical equipment applications and operational goals, as envisioned by the members of Special Committee 136, and is the basis for the standards stated in Sections 2.0 through 4.0. Definitions and assumptions essential to proper understanding of this document are also provided in Section 1.0.

Section 2.0 contains the minimum performance standards for ELT equipment. These standards define the required performance under standard operating conditions and stressed physical environmental conditions. It also details the recommended bench test procedures necessary to demonstrate compliance.

Section 3.0 describes the performance required of the installed equipment. Tests for the installed equipment are included when performance cannot be adequately determined through bench testing.

Section 4.0 describes the operational characteristics for equipment installations and defines conditions and tests that will assure the operator that operations can be conducted safely and reliably in the expected operational environment.

Compliance with these standards by manufacturers, installers and users is recommended as a means of assuring that the equipment will satisfactorily perform its intended function(s) under conditions encountered during and following crash situations. Additionally, adherence to these standards should assure that the ELT will not adversely affect normal aircraft operations.

If the equipment implementation includes a computer software package, the guidelines contained in RTCA/DO-178, "Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification," November 18, 1981 should be considered.