SAR factsheet

In an emergency, does my ELT send GPS data?

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Office fédéral de l'aviation civile OFAC
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Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA

In order for search and rescue teams to find an aircraft in an emergency as quickly as possible, they need complete and precise information. **GPS data** are a **great help** here. These are usually sent automatically by emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) in aircraft when they are triggered, provided the ELT has an internal GPS or an interface to a GPS source.

Some ELTs – despite having an internal GPS or an interface to a GPS source – cannot transmit GPS data when activated. That is because the **devices have been coded with a protocol** (15 Hex ID) that **prevents the GPS coordinates from being transmitted.**

To ensure that this **valuable information** is transmitted completely and accurately in an **emergency**, the ELTs must be coded using the **appropriate protocol**. Your device may need to be recoded. Switzerland allows three different types of coding. The FOCA recommends coding using the Standard Location Protocol and the 24-bit ICAO code. This ensures complete transmission of the GPS data.

How do I find out whether my ELT will send GPS data?

1. How should the HEX-ID begin?

- **21A oder 21B… =** The ELT will transmit the GPS data in an emergency. It is correctly coded. If the Standard Location Protocol with the 24-BIT ICAO code was also used and the details in the ELT registration are up to date, you do **not** have to do anything.

- **A1A… =** If your ELT has an **internal GPS** or an interface to a GPS source, your ELT will **not transmit GPS data** in an emergency. The ELT should **be recoded** to utilise all the functions of the ELT. The FOCA **recommends** the **Standard Location User Protocol coding using the 24-bit ICAO code.**
  Your CAMO, the maintenance company or the point of sale of the device will be able to help you further.

- You need to submit the recoded ELT with the new HEX ID immediately **with the ELT registration form** so that the database can be updated.

2. Where can I find my ICAO 24-bit address?

You can find the 24-bit ICAO code in the FOCA's **aircraft register** under the heading Aircraft address (hex). Enter the aircraft registration number.

Luftfahrzeug Adresse	4925719 (dec)
	4b2917 (hex)
	22624427 (oct)
	10010110010100100010111 (bin)

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